

e of food and fuel price ises to be held at 5%

restraint scheme, by which
some common items of
will be held to no more than
ie next six months, was

announced by the Government yesterday. It
covers such items as bread, milk, cigarettes,
beer, household appliances, central heating oil,
and gas.

el post rates going up by quarter

Mrs Williams said the list
affected 15 to 20 per cent of
consumer expenditure, but it
was impossible to estimate the
direct effect of the change on
the Retail Price Index. That
would react only to all the
measures taken by the Govern-
ment to reduce inflation.

However, she said the next
index figures, due at the end
of this week, would show that
there was no evidence of manu-
facturers or retailers raising
prices in the scheme of the
price-check scheme.

The scheme, which involved
the spending of nearly £1m
on publicity, was intended to
assure the public that some de-
gree of stability would return
to prices, she added. The Gov-
ernment also saw it as a neces-
sary paving of the way for the
next round of counter-inflation
talks with the TUC.

"The scheme has been made
possible by the way inflationary
forces are abating," she said.
As the rate continues to slow
there are likely to be many
other items which will not
increase by more than 5
per cent during the next six
months."

She did not think the scheme
was weak, because it was volun-
tary. Allowance being made
for special circumstances, mak-
ing it impossible for manu-
facturers or retailers to keep to
their promises, particularly
where fuel, material costs and
taxation were concerned.

The scheme would allow
profit loss incurred on one
item to be recouped on another
to some extent; such moves
however, would not apply to
butter, cheese and some items
of children's clothing.

Mrs Williams said publicity
material used by shops to tell
customers which goods prices
were included in the scheme
might not appear in every shop
by Monday. Not all shopkeepers
and manufacturers were neces-
sarily covered by undertakings
given by the Confederation of
British Industry and the Retail
Consortium, but Mrs Williams
expected the force of competi-
tion to bring them into line.

The scheme will be moni-
tored. CBI members will re-
port increases and the Retail
Consortium will from time to
time get reports on how the
scheme is working.

Anyone with a complaint can,
apart from taking it up with
the shop itself, go to a con-
sumer advice centre or citizens'
advice bureau. If there are
many complaints about a par-
ticular item or sector the Price
Commission will investigate.

Sir Campbell Adamson, Direc-
tor-General of the CBI, yes-

terday repeated his demand for
the Price Code to be scrapped
in July "if not before". He
said Lord Radcliffe, chairman
of the Retail Consortium, be-
lieved that the price-restraint
scheme should last no longer
than six months.

The scheme covers (stated
items are included on a
weighted-average basis covering
the category as a whole):
bread, liquid milk, some sugar,
frozen peas, some biscuits, con-
fectionery, packet tea, some
breakfast cereals, blackcurrant
health drinks, cider, beer,
many lines of clothing and
some knitwear, footwear, and
textiles, such as
leather shoes, sheets and towels.
Furniture and many domestic
appliances including cookers,
freezers, vacuum cleaners, and
sewing machines also appear.

Toiletries includes some soap,
toothpaste, razors, razor blades,
and proprietary medicines.
Paint, some wallpaper, and
some tools are included, as are
cigarettes and most pipe and
hand-rolling tobacco.

Some garden tools, cheaper
cameras and most film, some
prams and pushchairs, some
toys and games, budget-price
long-playing records, most car
batteries, some bicycles, electric
light bulbs, some stationery,
Continued on page 2, col 3

Hospital doctors offered extra £1.5m

By John Roper
After the independent audit
of extra-duty allowances paid
to junior hospital doctors the
review body pricing their new
contract, has found that an
extra £1.5m will be available
for distribution.

The money, the review body
says in its report to the Prime
Minister, will be absorbed in
paying extra supplements after
40 hours' work a week instead
of the original 44 hours. The
report recommends no changes
in the rates of payment: three
months of the basic hourly rate
(between £2p and 90p) for
standing by or working in hos-
pital and one tenth (17p to 30p)
for being on call.

The report has been accepted
by the Government. Junior hos-
pital doctors' leaders will meet
today to consider their
response. It is a complex docu-
ment and an immediate reaction
yesterday was that it could be
interpreted in different ways.
It is likely that before they
decide, most of the country's
17,000 junior hospital doctors
will be asked their opinion at
regional meetings.

Its recommendations are again
designed to "maintain a total
remuneration at the level of the
present yearly bill: £84.1m for
salaries, plus £14.2m for extra-
duty allowances.

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State
for Social Services, said last
night that, subject to the juniors
accepting the report, the new
arrangements would be intro-
duced at once with payments
backdated to February 9.

The Government's readiness
to accept it would, she hoped,
enable rapid progress to be
made in setting up a joint
examination of the juniors'
excessive hours.

The junior doctors suspended
their industrial action over the
new contract to await the
independent auditors' report and
the pricing of the contract by
the review body.

The review body report says
the auditors' prediction of the
total amount available for extra-
duty payments for the year
April 1, 1975, to March 31 this
year, was £14.2m. That was
largely because more doctors
now claimed the allowance.
The review body's original
recommendations had been put
into effect, the report said, it
was estimated, on the basis of
later information obtained by
the auditors, that the allowances
would have cost £12.7m. Thus
£1.5m was available for redis-
tribution.

Many junior doctors will not
be pleased that the overtime
rates have been fixed at the
same figures, or that the review
body has strong reservations
about professional men working
a 40-hour basic week after
which overtime is paid.

The junior doctors' salaries
will be considered in the April
review of all doctors' salaries
now being prepared by the
General Medical Council. Those who
gain from their present proposals
will not be regarded as having
had an increase for the purpose
of applying the 5p pay limit or
as having had an increase with-
in 12 months of their last settle-
ment.

"Totally unacceptable": Dr
Wasly Sakala, chairman of the
North-west hospital junior
staffs committee of the British
Medical Association, said last
night that at today's national
meeting he will react
"at all costs" acceptance of the
review body's findings (a Staff
Reporter writes).

"Obtaining a basic salary 40-
hour week is reasonable", he
said, "but it is totally unaccept-
able to receive overtime pay-
ments at 30 per cent of basic
rates."

(Review Body on Doctors' and
Dentists' Remuneration: third
supplement to 1975, com-
mand 6406; Stationery Office,
28p.)

Leading article, page 15

Parliamentary report, page 6



John Curry winning Britain's first gold medal in the figure skating at
Innsbruck last night. Winter Games reports, page 10.

W Midlands Bill is rejected by 164 votes

By Our Parliamentary
Correspondent
Westminster

The West Midlands County
Council Bill, under which the
authority's commercial and
trading activities would have
been extended to an almost un-
limited number of fields from
sanitary to car racing, was
defeated in the Commons last
night by 268 votes to 104, a
majority against the Bill of 164.

It was a free vote on the
government side of the House
for the second reading of this
private legislation, which was
clear that most Labour MPs
approved the idea of additional
municipal trading, although not
necessarily in the way the Bill
proposed.

Introducing the Bill, Mr
George Park, Labour MP for
Coventry, North-east, said the
principle of municipal trading
was not new. It was not the
intention of local authorities in
the West Midlands to enter into
extensive and damaging com-
petition with ratepayers.

From the Conservative front
bench Mr Keith Speed said that
the Bill gave local authorities
power to make anything, sell
anything, or provide any service
with little account taken of pro-
fitability. The House would not
be acting responsibly if the
measure was given a second
reading.

As the debate continued, it
was clear that the Government
was not enthusiastic about the
measure, although not opposed
to giving it a second reading.

Mr Oakes, Under-Secretary of
State, Environment, said the
Government could in no way
countenance the provision for a
blanket trading power for a
local authority. But he sug-
gested that the Bill be given a
second reading so that it could
be considered in committee.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Government defeated after voting mix-up

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The Opposition successfully
ambushed the Government last
night at the end of a debate
on investment in the motor in-
dustry to inflict an embarrass-
ing defeat by five votes. The
opposition motion, which was
carried by 214 votes to 209, had
the practical effect of reducing
the salary of Mr Varley, Secre-
tary of State for Industry, by
£1,000.

As Mr Varley smiled glumly
when the figures were
announced, which was
sympathetically on the back by
backbench colleagues.

The defeat came after so
error in the division lobbies. Mr
Thomas, the Speaker, ruled that
a second division should take
place but by that time many
MPs had left.

In spite of pleas by Mr Mel-
lish, Government Chief Whip, for
time to rally his forces, Mr
Peyton, the shadow Leader of
the House, and other prominent
Tories supported the Speaker's
ruling.

When the second division re-
sult was announced an angry
Mr Mellish stormed to the dis-
patch box, saying that the
figures were irrelevant and
would not be accepted by the
Government. He demanded that
the Tory Front Bench should
have to introduce a motion next
week to restore the £1,000
deducted from Mr Varley's salary.

The Tories will demand another
three-hour debate on an indus-
trial subject.

Parliamentary report, page 6

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mes only two nary deaths

who was at one stage second in
command of the British com-
mand and then passed on to
other mercenaries. It was de-
scribed as a "near miss" and
"definitive", including details of
the fate of Mr Georgiou.

The log includes an eye-wit-
ness account of the killings
which were ordered by Mr
Georgiou, the officer in com-
mand of the National Front (FNLA) front
line.

Many of the returning mer-
cenaries have spoken of the
killings. One yesterday said the
men were killed near Maqueto
do Zombi where they had
refused to fight because, they
said, they were not properly
equipped or trained.

According to this man's
report, a total of 21 men refused
to march to Sao Salvador and
mistakenly shot at other
soldiers. Fourteen of the men
were arrested by Mr Copeland
and taken before Mr Georgiou
in their underwear. He shot one
of the men with a pistol several
times before he fled. The
13 others were taken away by
Mr Copeland and machine-
gunned and left in a ditch.

Mr Terence White, of Fern-
borough, Hampshire, yesterday
described the aftermath. He was
reminded with yesterday
charged with possessing a
Continued on page 8, col 6

Skytrain cancellation 'immoral'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Mr Frederick Laker, chair-
man of Laker Airways, replied
angrily last night to a Govern-
ment decision to cancel his pro-
posed cheap fare Skytrain trans-
atlantic air service. "Once
again a British government has
broken its contract with the
aviation industry", he said.

"They gave us a licence and
designated us as a scheduled
carrier between London and
New York. They have now made
us look like idiots to the
foreigners. Imagine the feelings
of our bankers who lent us
£37m for three DC10 airliners
for 10 years on the back of a
10-year licence. They will be
asking: 'Just how much is a
piece of British paper worth?'"

The Government's decision to
cancel the Laker licence was
given in a White Paper pub-
lished yesterday on the future
of British civil aviation. It was
argued that cheap travel is now
available on other services, and
that British Airways would lose
£6m a year in revenue—a figure
bitterly contested by Mr Laker.
"This is a shabby and immoral
action", he said.

Under the policy outlined in
the White Paper, world air
routes are divided into spheres
of influence for British Airways
and the independent British
Caledonian. That could provide
a boost for the Concord, as it
envisages the possibility of
British Caledonian's operating
supersonic services by arrange-
ment with British Airways. Now
that it is confirmed as sole
British operator to South
America, British Caledonian
could consider leasing a Con-
corde for joint operations across
the South Atlantic with at least
one South American airline.

British Caledonian said last
night: "The Government has
confirmed the policy that there
should be a 'second force' air-
line, removing the uncertainty
of the past two years."

New proposals, page 4

Anglo-Irish clash on 'torture' report

Anglo-Irish relations are being
seriously threatened by a clash
between the two Governments
over allegations that British
troops and police tortured re-
publican detainees in 1971. The
Governments have issued
acrimonious public statements,
about leaks involving a confi-
dential report on a five-year
investigation into the allega-

tions, carried out by the Eu-
ropean Commission of Human
Rights. The clash comes when
the Governments are seeking
cooperation to halt the latest
increase in terrorist violence.

The European Human
Rights Convention prohibits
both Governments from disclos-
ing details of the 500-page
report, but both say they would
welcome publication. Page 2

£1m claim over a 'smokeless' fire

The National Coal Board may
be sued for more than £1m
after complaints about a room
heater which it promoted as
able to "eat its own smoke".

The heater, now discontinued,
was installed in council houses.
The board says local authori-
ties cannot claim compensation
because of a clause in contracts.
Page 5

Details today on EEC elections

The Government is expected
today to settle the details of
the promised Green Paper on
elections to the European Par-
liament. The aid antagonism
between Labour MPs who
opposed Britain's entry into the
EEC and those who supported
it is likely to be revived over
the elections, our Political Cor-
respondent believes. Page 4

Reservations on Bible statements

Full personal acceptance of all
the statements in the Bible and
the Creeds is not expected of
members of the Church of
England, a report by the
church's doctrine commission
says. It shifts the emphasis
from the content of belief to
the "character of believing".
Page 16

'Stop the Basque wolves' appeal

Spain's Interior Minister called
Basque terrorists "wolves who
do not even look to see whom
they are killing", and he
appealed to Basques to help the
police in tracking them down.
Page 7

Features, pages 12 and 14
Geoffrey Smith on the new softy,
John Watkinson and Bill Nash on
the silence surrounding Iran's
political prisoners; Shopping, by
Philipa Toole. Page 15

Letters: On mercenaries from Mr
Winson S. Churchill, MP, and
others; danger of a "nuclear
war" from Mr A. Atkinson.
Leading articles: Lockheed;
Italian crisis; Proposals for doctors.
Arts, page 23

Jeffery Daniels on *Gardens of
Delight* (Helm Gallery); William
Adamson at the Hongkong Festival;
John Percival on Tanz-Forum at
Norwich. Page 17

Michael Rafterie on Catherine de
Medici; David Williams on Georges
Clemenceau; Ion Trevisan on
mazes; John Russell Taylor on
Eric Rohmer's history of the
cinema. Page 16

Obituary, page 16
Major-General Sir Colin Gubbins;
Professor S. R. Sparks; Mr
Charlie Naughton

U.S. tax inquiry over bribes

The United States tax authori-
ties have been ordered to in-
vestigate whether tax deduc-
tions were made by American com-
panies for the payment of
bribes to secure sales to foreign
politicians and government offi-
cials. Page 8

Judges sue for higher pay

Forty-four American federal
judges have gone to court with
a suit for higher pay. They
claim that inflation has diminished
their pay as stipulated by the
constitution. Page 9

Import control rift widens

The rift between the Govern-
ment and the Labour Party over
import controls widened when
the party's financial subcommis-
tee gave "general approval" to
a document from Transport
House advocating import sur-
charges. Page 2

Unemployment target: The
TUC's economic committee be-
lieves the Government should
aim at reducing unemployment to
600,000 by 1979-80. Page 3

Cod war: Dr Luns meets
British ministers and hears their
views on conflict with Iceland. Page 7

Everest expedition: Army
group announces their plans to
climb the Himalayan peak. Page 8

Archbishop-elect: Mr Derek
Worlock is to be the next Roman
Catholic Archbishop of Liver-
pool. Page 16

Boun aids franc: The French
and German national banks
have agreed to help to shore
up the ailing French franc. Page 19

Sport, pages 10-12
Racing: Michael Seely reports on
new sponsors for the All-Ireland
Grand National meeting; Foot-
ball: Clubs prepare to leave and
abroad for next round of FA Cup;
Athletics: Drug-takers may
be named soon.

Business News, pages 18-23
Stock markets: Downward drift
to nervous trading; The FT
index lost 2.8 points to 400.3;
Financial Editor: Behind the fall
in Bank shares; the long road
back for UDT; seasonal variations
at Dalgety.

Peter Jay column: Sending the
secret of the moon's announce-
ment by the Chancellor of measures to
stimulate employment.

Business features: Charles Har-
grove talks to M. François Ceyrac,
president of the French em-
ployers' federation, about the
Government's proposals to reform
company law.

Business Diary: Business and Pro-
fessional Women's Clubs still on
the equality warpath.

Part of Bewbush profit is repaid to original owner

By Diana Geddes
The partners of Weller Eggar
have agreed to pay in full to
Mr Lionel Brooks, the original
owner of the Bewbush estate in
Sussex, the additional commis-
sion received by them from the
resale of part of the estate by
Keatfield Ltd, it was announced
yesterday.

In a statement released
jointly by Mr Richard Cristin,
Bewbush's Jersey-based tax
lawyer, and Weller Eggar, Mr
Brooks says he was satisfied
"that this sum was received in
good faith and that the recipi-
ents acted properly and reason-
ably, although in the mistaken
belief that the necessary
approval for such additional
commission was given by Mr
Brooks."

The 617-acre Bewbush estate
was sold for £2.5m to Keatfield
by Mr Brooks through the
Horsham branch of Weller
Eggar in October, 1972. Four
months later 310 acres was re-
sold through the same estate
agents to Crawley council for
£7m. In addition to the normal
commission, £700,000 was paid
by Keatfield to Mr John Smith,
former partner of the
Horsham branch of Weller
Eggar.

Mr John Guthrie, owner of
Broadland Properties and a
director of Keatfield, has said
that in a conversation with his
chief surveyor in July, 1972,
Mr Brooks gave his approval to
the participation of Mr John
Smith, his old friend, in any
profit arising out of a resale of
the estate.

At a meeting the next month
between Mr Guthrie, and Sir
Don Ryder, then chairman of

the Reed International Pension
Fund and now Lord Ryder,
Eaton Hastings, chairman of
the National Enterprise Board,
in discuss the formation of a
partnership to purchase the
Bewbush estate, it was agreed
that "in the light of Mr
Brooks's known approval" they
would allow Mr John Smith a
20 per cent interest in the net
profitability if the venture
proved successful, Mr Guthrie
said.

Soon afterwards, Keatfield
was set up by Broadland Pro-
perties, the Reed pension fund
and the Namding Tea Company
of London, with Mr Guthrie and
Sir Don Ryder among the
directors.

Mr Smith shared half his
interest with two other partners
at the Horsham branch who
have since ceased to be part-
ners in the firm. They later
paid "a proportion of their
personal interest", which had
amounted to £150,000 each, to
the partnership account of
Weller Eggar.

It is that proportion that has
been paid to Mr Brooks, after
a statement by Weller Eggar at
the end of last month that they
would hand the money to Mr
Brooks if his approval to the
special commission could not be
established to the firm's satisfac-
tion.

Part of the agreement reached
yesterday between Weller Eggar
and Mr Brooks is that neither
party shall release any state-
ment on the resale of the land
or disclose the amount paid to
Mr Brooks without the approval
of the other party, except in
the case of criminal or civil
proceedings.

HOME NEWS

Stormont and Dublin clash over human rights report on 'torture by Britain' charge

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Allegations that British troops and policemen tortured republican prisoners in autumn, 1971, have given rise to a diplomatic clash which is seriously threatening the future of Anglo-Irish relations.

The clash arises after the delivery to both governments of confidential copies of a four-year investigation into the allegations by the European Commission of Human Rights. It comes at a delicate moment when efforts are being made to increase cross-border cooperation to combat the recent increase in terrorist violence.

Under section 32 of the European Human Rights Convention both governments are prohibited from disclosing details of the report, which runs to more than 500 pages and follows the longest and most costly inter-state case to the Commission's history.

In spite of the ban British ministers have been infuriated by reports from Dublin that the investigation comes down heavily against Britain.

Spokesmen from both governments issued acrimonious public statements yesterday about the leaks while, it is understood, making strenuous diplo-

matic efforts in Strasbourg to have the full report published immediately.

Stormont Castle sent a message to correspondents stating: "The British Government, like the Irish Government, is prohibited by the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights from making public the details of the report. They would, however, have no objection to its publication so long as it would demonstrate the speculative nature of the unconfirmed reports circulating in Dublin."

Less than two hours later the Dublin Cabinet ordered a counter-statement to be issued, emphasizing the prohibition on releasing details.

It added: "The Government, however, would welcome the publication of the report as soon as possible. It notes that apparently the British Government has no objection to its publication."

In European legal circles there was confusion about the avenues open for immediate publication of the findings.

Under the convention's complex procedure, a three-month period is now meant to ensue in which either government has the right to refer the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Rights for a public judicial hearing. If not, the report is automatically referred to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers for a decision.

The British Government is concerned that if the report is circulated to all 18 countries inside the Council of Europe it is practically certain that parts of its content will be leaked. It would prefer the entire report to be made public so that the emotive allegations and the commission's conclusions can be judged on their merits.

Since the case was opened to December 1971, it has always threatened permanent damage to Anglo-Irish relations. In fact they have improved greatly since the low point reached in the wake of Bloody Sunday in January, 1972, when 13 people were killed in a clash with troops in the Bogside.

The main charge against Britain refers to alleged breaches of section 3 of the convention concerning torture, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners. Britain is also accused of breaching other parts of the convention, including article 14, which covers freedom from discrimination.

During the four years during which the case has been heard,

118 witnesses have appeared before the commission.

Extraordinary security precautions were ordered when members of the British Army appeared at three separate hearings on a remote Norwegian air station near Stavanger. At the time the Irish were angered by the British Government's insistence that the men should not be named and that their faces should be hidden by plastic screens from all but two of the 12 members of the Irish legal team.

"Mainland violence": If the Army were to be withdrawn from Northern Ireland the violence would spread quickly to the British mainland, Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday (Tuesday) in a written statement to the House of Commons.

He said there was no simple and quick solution to the troubles. "There are those who say: 'It is no use, let us pull the plug out and let them get on with it.' I have no doubt that if that were to happen the violence that would then develop would quickly spread over here. That is one vital reason why we should not heed the advice of those who would have us withdraw the Army."

Port firms want payment for extra costs

By Tim Jones

Port employers are to press the Government to compensate them for any additional costs they incur as a consequence of the extension of the dock labour scheme.

That emerged yesterday as unions and employers affected by the controversial Dock Work Regulation Bill prepared to fight for amendments when the Bill is debated on the committee stage.

Although the Government had a majority of eight during the second reading, many union-sponsored Bills are unhappy about some of the Bill's provisions and will seek amendments to safeguard the interests of the workers they represent.

The Bill seeks to extend the dock labour scheme to all cargo-handling establishments within five miles of a water front or an inland waterway opening to the sea.

For the Conservatives and employers, fears that the Bill would give the 20,000 dockers a stranglehold on the nation's imports and exports were heightened by the threat of industrial action by 10,000 London dockers.

Mr. William Lindley, the Secretary of State for Employment, and his colleagues were steering the Bill through the House, the dockers' representatives were formulating their policy of protest over the Bill.

Mr. Jones said the Bill would give the 20,000 dockers a stranglehold on the nation's imports and exports were heightened by the threat of industrial action by 10,000 London dockers.

The threat of industrial action surprised P.L.A. officials, who are hoping to discuss the proposed transfer of work to the "royal" group of docks with the unions on the basis of joint negotiation and mutual agreement.

Many of the Labour union-sponsored MPs whose members may be affected by the proposed legislation were swayed by assurances by Mr. Booth, Minister of State for Employment, that the measures would not create redundancies among non-dockers working for food-stuff importers.

Speaking earlier to the day, Mr. Foot dismissed a suggestion that the Bill was a repayment to Mr. Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for his support of the 55 pay policy.

"What we have been saying is that we must find a solution to the problem of the docks, and we are not going to do it by giving the unions what they want to get that," he said.

Mr. Thomas Croxall, national dock group secretary for the transport union, said there would be no "poaching" of other unions' members.

No workers established in places such as warehouses and belonging to other unions would be disturbed.

Mr. Jones said he was not guilty to the murder of her daughter and guilty to damaging her home in Buxton Road, Stratford, London, by fire, were accepted by the prosecution.

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Labour rift widens over import curbs

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff

The Labour Party's divergent economic strategy was intensified last night on the eve of a statement in the Commons by Mr. Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, designed to mitigate the effects of rising unemployment.

A private meeting of the party's financial subcommittee reinforced the demand for import controls, although strong reservations were expressed by Mr. Davies, a Minister of State at the Treasury.

The meeting gave "general approval" to a document prepared by Transport House which suggested an import surcharge. It was argued in the document that if combined with extra public spending of £1,750m a year an import surcharge could save 500,000 jobs by next year.

There is now expected to be strong pressure for the document to be discussed at a meeting of the party's full national executive within two weeks. The aim is to give the party's policy-making body additional ammunition for the arguments it plans to present to the Chancellor before his Budget statement on April 6.

The document was described as having "general approval" because of the reservations made by Mr. Davies and, it is believed, by Mr. Adrian Han, who is Mr. Healey's political adviser.

The document advocated a 18 per cent surcharge on all manufactured imports, which, it said, would almost immediately improve the balance of payments and by the end of 1977 the improvement would be of the order of £1,000m a year.

Mr. Davies was not convinced by that line of thinking. Apart from retaliation by Britain's main trading partners, he suggested that a surcharge might fall because there was nothing to prevent the main importers from dropping their prices by a similar amount, or people dipping further into their pockets.

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Objective 600,000 unemployed is urged

By Our Labour Staff

The TUC's economic policy committee decided yesterday that the Government should reduce unemployment to 600,000 by 1978, as proposed annual economic policy which also suggests a real level of unemployment now be as 1,700,000.

Some members, Mr. Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Building Workers, thought the target figure was too high. The policy was presented to the Council of the TUC.

As part of its closing the poverty committee agreed to a significant rise in the threshold, Mr. Scanlon said, to take paid workers out of the altogether.

It also endorsed a recommendation in the review of the economy for a married couple of the aim is eventually pension levels of £1 earnings.

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White-collar gas workers strike

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

Thousands of white-collar workers in the gas industry went on strike yesterday and gave a warning that gas supplies might be threatened. They are refusing to operate a new pay and job reorganization scheme for manual workers until they get a commitment for extra pay when the incomes policy permits.

Their union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), said training and other staff had been locked out for not doing extra duties resulting from the new scheme. Seven thousand members were on strike in sympathy, mostly in the North-west and some in the east Midlands.

British Gas said that on NALGO's instructions staff were blacking certain activities that were part of their normal jobs. "Those sent home for refusing to carry out normal duties are free to return if they are willing to work normally."

Two fined £1,000 for Gay Future plot

Two men said to have been involved in the £300,000 horse-betting coup were convicted by a jury at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

After a retirement of more than six hours Anthony Collins, aged 39, a racehorse trainer, of Troon, Strathclyde, and Anthony Murphy, aged 44, a building contractor of Cork, Republic of Ireland, were found guilty on majority verdicts of conspiracy to cheat bookmakers. They were each fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £300 towards the prosecution costs.

Mr. Roger Gray, for the defence of Mr. Collins, said to the judge after the verdicts had been announced: "The result may have a profound effect on some aspects of racing." He added that some things in the racing world that had never before come to a criminal court might now be considered illegal.

The judge told Mr. Collins: "I have no doubt you have great devotion to the turf, and eventually you may suffer at the hands of the Jockey Club and in your particular position it will probably be the

equivalent of being drummed out of the regiment."

To Mr. Murphy he said: "You have remained a sportsman to the end. There are many who will admire you for meeting the challenge of coming over to this country and facing a jury."

They have no doubt that the Jockey Club will have lost by this sort of case and will take even greater precautions.

The Crown alleged that the two men were part of a syndicate that placed bets in doubles and trebles on three horses, Gay Future, Ankerwyke Bank Holiday, 1974, Ankerwyke and Opera Cloak, over left Mr. Collins's stables, and all the money to the bets went on Gay Future, a 10-1 winner at Carmel.

The defence maintained that it was a legitimate bet. Chief Supt. Terry O'Connell, of Scotland Yard, said he understood that the bookmakers were taking legal advice on the question of stake money on the void bets being refunded. He also told the court that warrants had been issued for the arrest of other men alleged to have been involved in the plot.

In brief

Eire to spend £50m on tourism

Irish tourist organizations are to spend £50m on a five-year campaign to attract holidaymakers to the Republic. The Irish Tourism Authority is seeking to increase holiday traffic from the present 4,500,000 people to six million by 1980 and hence revenue from £18m to £250m.

Mr Lloyd's last bow

Mr. Solwyn Lloyd, the former Speaker, ended his links with the House of Commons yesterday when he was appointed Seward and Talford of the Manor of Northstead by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The stewardship is taken office of profit under the Crown.

Fewer road deaths

Britain had 324,400 road casualties in 1975, about the same as in 1974, according to provisional figures issued yesterday. The number of deaths (6,330) fell by 8 per cent, serious injuries (77,100) by 6 per cent, but slight injuries (240,900) rose by 2 per cent.

Closer link with EEC

Closer links with EEC institutions are to be sought by English metropolitan local authorities with the aim of strengthening their influence on decision-making in the Community.

Students to pay

York University students' union has agreed to pay for £100 damage caused during a sit-in last month. None of those who took part is to be prosecuted.

Three saved at sea

A tug and Green Yarmouth lifecost yesterday rescued the crew of three from a sinking coaster, the Sea Rhine, 200 tons, after her cargo of steel had shifted, off the Suffolk coast.

Man dies after fall

A man aged between 20 and 30 died in hospital in Bristol yesterday after falling about 200 feet on to a roadway from the Clifton suspension bridge.

Correction

In our report yesterday of a speech by Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the name of Mr. Norman Scott was incorrectly given as Nicholas Scott.

Mother started fatal fire

Kay Sully, aged 23, who was said to have started a fire at her home, which killed her daughter aged 12, and uncle, aged 67, was given a two-year suspended prison sentence and placed under a supervision order at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Her pleas of not guilty to the murder of her daughter and guilty to damaging her home in Buxton Road, Stratford, London, by fire, were accepted by the prosecution.

Aims for Freedom challenges Mr Smith

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr. Cyril Smith, Liberal Chief Whip, had some explaining to do yesterday about the Liberal Party's attitude to Aims for Freedom and Enterprise, which exists to champion the cause of private enterprise and to challenge all forms of state intervention and nationalization.

In the Commons debate on the Dock Work Regulation Bill Mr. Smith called it a piece of idiotic nonsense which should be committed to where I commit all documents from Aims of Industry: the waste-paper basket.

That seemed to indicate a totally hostile attitude to the organization. But Mr. Michael Ivens, its director, said yesterday that in 1973 Mr. Smith was seeking finance for the Liberal Party from Aims of Industry.

He said: "We find Mr. Smith's observations... most interesting in view of the fact that he wrote to me on October 29, 1973, stating, 'I wonder if it would be possible for me to see someone in the near future to talk about the possibility of your organization assisting the Liberal Party, either directly or indirectly with finance? We are a free enterprise party, opposed to nationalization, and this letter is sent to you with the full knowledge of the leader, Jeremy Thorpe'."

On the occasion Mr. Ivens replied: "Our policy is that we do not make contributions to any political party... I am sure that we do have the same outlook on Labour's nationalization plans, and if you felt it would be useful I would be happy to meet you and Mr. Thorpe."

Mr. Ivens received a letter from Mr. Smith's secretary saying: "I am afraid it will not

be possible for you to meet Mr. Thorpe."

In Mr. Ivens's first reply he wrote: "You may remember that when Mr. Harold Wilson stated a few years ago that we gave money to the Tory Party, we took legal action and got the money back. This was very important to us because Mr. Wilson's comments implied we were getting money from our supporters under false pretences."

Mr. Smith was unabashed last night. "It is certainly true that we contacted Aims of Industry, as we did all organizations which we felt might have sympathy with aspects of our policy and might be willing to provide finance."

"The fact that they were not willing to support us in any way merely confirmed my fear: that Aims of Industry was a tool of the Conservative Party."

P O takes part in price-restraint scheme

Continued from page 1

National Council and the Price Commission have agreed to strong protests from big users of the parcel service, particularly the mail order industry and book publishers.

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er import curbs

Sheila 1.50

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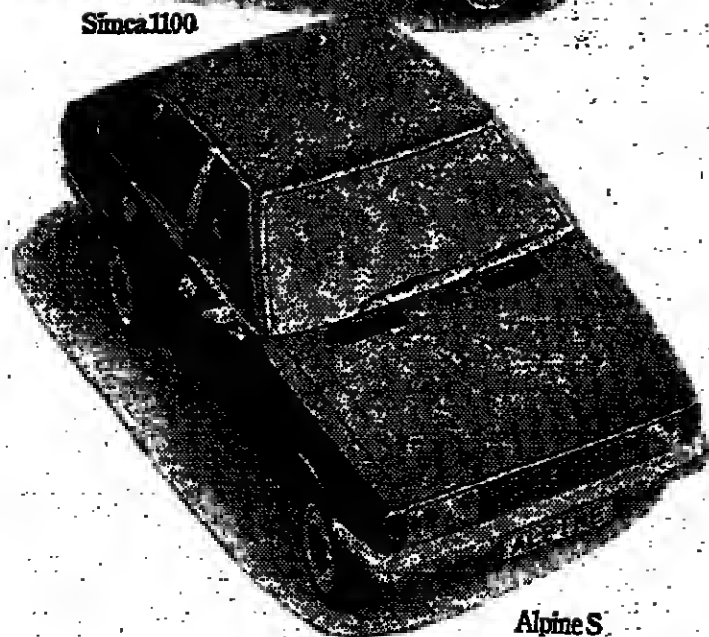
Avenger Estate



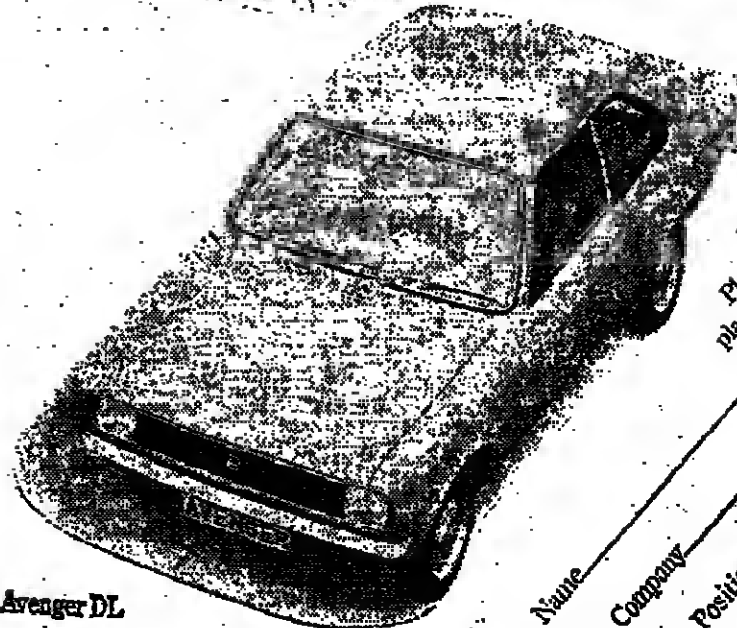
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HOME NEWS

Rival British airlines are given separate 'spheres of interest'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways, the state-owned airline, and the independent British Caledonian were ordered to exchange a number of important routes in a White Paper on civil aviation policy published yesterday. At the same time the licence granted to Laker Airways to operate a walk-on, cheap-fare Skytrain service between London and New York was cancelled.

The White Paper incorporated a new "spheres of influence" policy for British airlines endorsed by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, under which, in general terms, British Airways will fly to North America and British Caledonian to South America. British Airways will also be the sole operator to East Africa and the Seychelles. While British Caledonian will be the sole operator to West and Central Africa. Among the exceptions to that policy would be the retention by British Caledonian of its licences to operate scheduled services to Atlanta and Houston, and the freedom of British Airways to operate the Concordes to places within the British Caledonian sphere.

The new policy will mean that British Caledonian will have to give up its licences to operate to New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Toronto, Bahrain and Singapore, East Africa and the Seychelles. British Airways will surrender to British Caledonian its services to Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. The White Paper also ended British Caledonian's special position as the British "second force" airline, under which the Civil Aviation Authority was required to give it preferential treatment to help it develop its route network. "The Secretary of State does not consider

it desirable that British Caledonian should continue to enjoy such treatment in circumstances in which it would usually only be possible to favour British Caledonian at the direct expense of British Airways," the document said.

Under the new policy the aviation authority would be required to give both airlines a strong preference within their respective spheres of influence. Competition between their long-haul services involved both airlines in a wasteful use of resources which outweighed any possible advantage to the travelling public, the White Paper said.

The exchange of routes in Africa should enable both airlines to achieve considerable savings through deploying their resources more effectively. The Government believed that the rearrangement of routes was fair to both and would provide a firm and stable basis on which both could plan for the development, so strengthening their ability to compete with foreign carriers in the demanding world aviation market.

As a result of the spheres of influence policy their services would in future be complementary rather than competitive, and the way would be open for much closer cooperation. Announcing the cancellation of the Skytrain licence, the White Paper said that account had been taken of the wide range of charter services and promotional fares on scheduled services developed over the past few years. There was much less scope than was originally envisaged for a Skytrain-type service to generate new traffic, a good proportion of which would be diverted from other existing services. British Airways would lose £6m a year if Skytrain's route network "The Secretary of State does not consider

Community health councils—4: Difficulties of creating trust with NHS doctors and managers

'Pompous bully' accusation brought resignation threats

The Wandsworth and East Merion Community Health Council, in south London, is an outstanding example of a CHC that has declared its allegiance firmly and uncompromisingly on the side of "the people". It has outraged doctors, angered administrators, and endeared itself to the local press because of the wealth of material it has provided for newspaper reports.

The secretary is Miss Caroline Langridge, aged 29, who was selected by the council because of a previous involvement in community action and a determination not to be seduced by the NHS hierarchy.

She has worked closely with Mrs Susan Holland, who was in the chair during the council's first year. Mrs Holland, a clinical psychologist who has a small child, runs the People's Aid and Action Centre, a neighbourhood counselling service in Battersea described as "London's first experiment in street-level social action psychotherapy".

The council has a young membership, with an average age of about 35. Several of its

members are community workers, including the present chairman, Miss Jilly Sandison. There is a strong socialist commitment. The dominant ideological standpoint is that of a body fighting to win control of the NHS for "the mass of working people".

Because meetings are highly political, there has often been violent disagreement. When the council urged a ban on the use of agency nurses, for example, a counter-statement was issued by one of its members, Mr D. T. L. Mallan, Conservative leader on the Labour-controlled Wandsworth Borough Council.

"They are an incredibly diverse group of people, most of them quite formidable in their different ways," Miss Langridge said. "Four of the members threatened to resign when Mrs Holland publicly denounced a doctor as a 'pompous bully' during a campaign over the number of abortions at a hospital."

The doctor wrote an angry letter to the council in which he expressed "grave doubts"

Neville Hodgkinson shows what happened when relations with authorities broke down

as to its secretary's competence. Mrs Holland replied:

"I inform you that a panel of our members selected Miss Langridge for the post as secretary because she has the commitment and integrity to question, criticise and pose creative alternatives even in the face of the rigidity and conservatism of national health hierarchies, including pompous and rude bullies such as yourself."

Regarding your outrage that Miss Langridge appeared to imply "consultant obstetric surgeons and midwives can staff a geriatric unit", it is the opinion of myself and several other members of our CHC that many workers today are expected to be flexible in their skills or become redundant. We do not see why certain categories of health workers should be such a sacrosanct exception.

Great vitality accompanies the council's ideological approach to health service difficulties, and its success has been to stir

local controversy and make its presence felt in the community. But the CHC is torn by internal dissension, as it admits in *Patient Power—the First Year*, its first annual report. In a "joint statement of chairperson and vice-chairperson", the report states that the monthly meetings have often been unpleasant affairs with angry verbal clashes.

"At other times differences have been thinly covered with a veneer of politeness, but huge disagreements are always present and this ensures that we simply remain a 'talking shop'."

The health service professionals are nervous of having anything to do with the council, and if they remain so that must weaken its potential for influencing decision-making.

Miss Langridge says, however, that a dialogue is just beginning with the local health managers, whom earlier the council had threatened with legal action over a lack of information and consultation, because the officers want to mobilise local opinion against expenditure cuts.

Wandsworth has taken up an

extreme position, and its difficulties have been extreme as a result. But similar difficulties involving mutual suspicion between CHCs and NHS doctors, administrators and managers are commonplace.

In the Wakefield Eastern district of West Yorkshire, the council would do the opposite, according to Mr Gordon Tollicson, the council secretary.

The dispute came to a head when the authority banned a poster produced by the CHC from all health service establishments in the area. The poster contrasted an idealized hospital receptionist with a caricature of hospital sister.

It was intended as an eye-catching joke, but the authority said it was offensive to nursing staff. The CHC nevertheless obtained the publicity it wanted because the local newspaper published the poster on its front page, with an article about the dispute.

Next: Winning over the public.

Slim hope Lords for incurables Bill

By a Staff Reporter

The prospect that Wootton of Abinger's In Patients Bill will be a second reading by the House today seems very little more than a hope, rather than a certainty, as the Euthanasia Bill, which was rejected by 61 votes to

The main purpose of the Bill is to legalize euthanasia to protect incurable from avoidable suffering. It would allow a patient to be given a lethal injection of drugs to end his or her life if he or she is suffering from a terminal illness and is in constant pain. The Bill would also allow a doctor to give a patient a lethal injection if the patient is suffering from a terminal illness and is in constant pain.

The Bill also provides an incurable patient who is suffering from a terminal illness and is in constant pain. The Bill would also allow a doctor to give a patient a lethal injection if the patient is suffering from a terminal illness and is in constant pain.

Lady Wootton's Bill is opposed in a letter to 74 by a group of church leaders. Dr James M. Moderator of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Dr Duncan Leary, Moderator of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

Dr J. F. Searle, co-in charge of intensive care at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, wrote to deny doctors were reluctant to lieve the pain of in disease adequately.

Another doctor, Dr May, a lecturer in surgery at St Thomas's Hospital, agreed. "The medical staff have probably been guilty of over-prescribing relieving drugs than of tance to use them", Dr Searle also maintain in many intensive care "when it was established yond a reasonable don the brain is dead. Life systems are withdrawn."

Lady Wootton suggest her Bill might make su sions less agonizing for and might offer them so section where there wa ference of opinion betw doctor and a patient's re

Dr Richard Lammerton, man of the Human Society, said the Bill necessary and would "assisted suicide".



Constable's "Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadow" being hung at the Tate Gallery, to be shown on February 18 in an exhibition

Natural growth of East Anglia encouraged

By a Staff Reporter

The Government has decided that a huge population growth predicted for East Anglia should generally be allowed to occur naturally in the parts where people want to go.

It has rejected as "neither essential nor very practicable" a recommendation by planners that a more even spread of growth should be sought.

The recommendation was central to a report published last year by an independent team commissioned by the Government, the local planning authorities in the region and the Regional Economic Planning Council.

In a document outlining its response, published yesterday, the Government recognizes that population growth "represents the major problem for East Anglia". It says the growth, expected to be from about 1,750,000 now to between 2,200,000 and 2,600,000 by the end of the century, is likely to be largely of four main types.

They are planned overspill from London, migration of retired people to attractive areas where houses are still relatively cheap, movement to areas made easier of access by better roads, including some people prepared to commute to

London and natural increase. It acknowledges that growth is concentrated in the southern and south-western parts of the region, which are generally accessible to London.

It says there should be careful preparation by planners and authorities for the future growth, and in some parts restraint may be called for by amenity considerations, the need to protect agricultural land and the need to limit pressure on scarce resources. Cambridge is picked out as being in particular need of continued protection.

But the Government says it does not accept that such restraint in one area will necessarily lead to a corresponding increase in other parts of the region.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said yesterday that the Government's response was "a savage blow at a unique part of England's landscape heritage".

Mr Christopher Hall, the director, said the Government did not make clear why the huge population increase must be allowed to occur.

Strategic Choice for East Anglia: Government Response. Available free from Department of the Environment (DPE), C11/21, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB.

Bishop's reply to council

The Bishop of Kingston upon Thames, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, yesterday criticized the local borough council after its decision earlier in the day to dissociate itself from remarks he made against the Concordes. "I find the council amazingly ignorant about the economic facts of the British aircraft industry," he said. "I think others, probably better than myself, can draw their own conclusions about the moral stance of a council which can, in the same session in which it dis-

sociates itself from my views on Concordes' noise, express concern over the present temporary route of the Mole Valley flight path over the royal borough."

He said he would hardly feel able to go to the Mayor's annual reception next week. The council voted "publicly to dissociate itself and the people of the borough from the views of the bishop which, if accepted, would severely damage the aircraft industry which is one of the main providers of employment in the town".

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Tory attacks 'palsied' Front Bench

An opportunity for Conservatives to attack the Post Office monopoly was lost in the House of Commons last week because of "the palsied lack of will of the Tory Front Bench," Mr Stephen Eyles, secretary of the Selection Group, said in a speech yesterday.

"I sometimes wonder if all Conservatives in Parliament really have the determination to attack," he said.

Mr Eyles said the Conservatives were given an opportunity to attack the Post Office monopoly when Mr Ian Gow, MP for Eastbourne, sought to introduce a Bill to permit competition from free enterprise and voluntary organizations in the collection and delivery of letters.

He had failed in his attempt by 11 votes. "Although a majority of Conservative MPs voted for the Bill, only four members of the Shadow Cabinet gave their support," Mr Eyles praised Mrs Thatcher for her first year in office, adding: "For the first time since Churchill we have an authentic Conservative party leader."

Old EEC antagonisms revive over European Parliament

By George Clark

Labour backbenchers believe that the Cabinet will today settle the details of the Greco Paper promised on the proposals for direct elections to the European Parliament, giving the dossier for consultations and legislation to enable the first election to take place in 1978.

It was obvious yesterday that all the old antagonisms over the EEC are being revived for the parliamentary battle that will follow the election, which is necessary to establish European "constituencies" and the method of voting.

Mr John Roper, Labour MP for Farnworth and chairman of the Labour Committee for Europe, yesterday wrote to Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, enclosing a 10-page document prepared by pro-EEC Labour MPs. That suggests that to give fairer representation to the regions of the United Kingdom and to the larger Districts of the EEC the number of seats in the European Parliament should be increased to 418 from the 355 recommended in the European Parliament's draft convention of January, 1975.

Mr John Mills, secretary of the Labour Commons Market Safeguards Committee, said 58 Labour MPs, with allies from other parties, will oppose the legislation, just as they opposed the Bill that took Britain into the European Community. He explained: "We are opposed to direct elections on the grounds that we think they would cement us still more securely into the unfavourable position in which we now find ourselves."

"We agree that the present EEC set-up is rather undemocratic with so much power in the hands of the commission, but while we favour more democracy we are anxious lest direct elections should be a smokescreen under which the United Kingdom moves towards the acceptance of a European federal state."

Mr Mills said that a directly elected European Parliament would allow the present EEC system to be presented in a more favourable light, without allowing the United Kingdom to renegotiate the terms of the EEC.

"These federal elections may produce a parliament in which there is a left-right split, but no one is going to make it any easier for us to renegotiate the agricultural policy, deal with the flow of investment to

Europe, or do anything to stanch our balance of payments deficit with Europe, which is enormous at the moment. It would open the way to monetary union, which we think would be very disadvantageous to the United Kingdom, with all the trappings of a unitary state."

In his letter to Mr Callaghan, Mr Roper said: "The Labour Committee for Europe has had a working group considering the problems associated with direct elections. We hope to produce a full report some time in April which will take into account both the Government's White Paper and the decisions taken at the European Council in Luxembourg in April."

The document, however, we felt that we should send you this interim submission on the size of the directly elected parliament and the timing of the election, as the Government will no doubt wish to take a view on these matters in advance of the European Council meeting in April."

Because the legislation will concern the Home Office, as Mr Roper sent a copy to Mr Jenkins.

The document argues that the European Parliament draft convention for a parliament of 355 seats will encounter difficulties because the smaller countries are over-represented and the larger ones under-represented. It gives this table showing the population in each member under the draft convention:

Belgium, 422,000; Denmark, 294,000; France, 795,000; West Germany, 869,000; Ireland, 231,000; Italy, 823,000; Luxembourg, 58,000; Netherlands, 494,000; UK, 833,000. The average is therefore 718,000.

"The trouble would arise when those in Scotland and Wales who are aspiring to something akin to separate nationhood compared themselves with the smaller member states in the EEC under the draft convention allocation."

The document gives the following table for European Parliament seats and population to a seat under the draft convention:

The report continues: "A formula needs to be found which will reduce this severe disproportion without at the

same time creating a ment of unwieldy size. "Our suggested for to allow six seats to each state plus one or a seat for every 700,000 in Japan. This gives a total seats of the United Kingdom would have 86, the present distribution in the House of Commons would be divided thus: land 9; Wales 5; Ireland 3; England 68.

The alternative to system, the report says, is that the Government case more seats to the out of the 67 allowed would be justified by son with the House of Commons.

"The great danger would be of an English lash." While nations Scotland and Wales w represented under a member constituency past-the-post electoral more evenly spread in like the Liberals would represent even though might have 18 per cent votes cast, as in the leral election.

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Scotland 7 143,000
Wales 4 700,000
Ireland 3 231,000
Denmark 2 294,000
Irish Rep 13 221,070
Luxembourg 6 58,000

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Estate changed from plans approved, witness says

A wealthy builder sometimes took a councillor with him when he went to his big new private housing development, a witness said at the corruption trial at Teesside Crown Court at Middlesbrough yesterday.

Mr George Simms, a former foreman said the councillor would ask if there were any problems. But the only "problems" for the workmen were that the estate was changing from what the plans approved by the council originally showed.

He said a row of shops was moved from where the plan showed it, a public house acquired a lounge 14ft longer than approved, and a line of bungalows was 20ft from the original site, which gave Sidney

McCullough, the builder, enough land to build three more bungalows.

Mr McCullough, aged 53, of The Broadway, Tyne-mouth, is accused with Robert Urwin, aged 66, and two other county councillors of Oxford County, Birley, and three other former Durham councillors of corruptly conspiring to gain planning favours between 1960 and 1973.

The others are Andrew Cunningham, aged 45, of Carrowmore Road, Chester-le-Street, Sidney Docking, aged 66, of Kingsmere, Birley and Matthew Alton, aged 72, of Willow Close, Washington. All have pleaded not guilty.

The trial continues today.

'Ferrybridge six' request for jobs to be considered

Mr G. Blackman, director-general of the Central Electricity Generating Board's north-eastern region, will today consider a request for reinstatement in their old jobs by the "Ferrybridge six". He will also take into account a suggestion that more than 500 employees at Ferrybridge C power station should hold a ballot to discover whether the men's reinstatement would be resisted. The six have said that if the ballot went against them they would not press for their jobs back.

The men's solicitor, Mr Thomas Diskin, Levenshure, wrote to the CEGB in London asking for the men's reinstatement and pointing out that they were convinced that it would not lead to industrial strife. The letter suggested that if the board did not agree, a ballot could be held to enable the workers to decide in a civilized and responsible way whether the men should go back.

The six believe that the threat of industrial action is merely the view of shop stewards at the plant.

EEC food price rises will add 24p in pound

By Hugh Clayton

Price changes planned by the EEC would result in about 24p in the pound to British shoppers by the end of this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday.

Increases in the Community farm price level would probably raise food prices in Britain by 11p in the pound. The other 13p would come from movement towards full Community price levels in the accessionary programme for British membership.

Officials said that the minister would seek restraint in rises finally fixed by the Community for farm support prices.

The ministry issued its statement in reply to a claim by the Consumers' Association that increases in the Community review alone would add as much as 6p in the pound to British food bills.

The association said in a submission to ministers and other MPs that claims from farmers about the impact of EEC price changes were misleading. Copia, the Community federation of farmers' unions, had suggested that the rise would be little more than 3p in the pound.

Dr William Roberts, head of the European unit of the association, gave a warning about the higher butter prices for Britain if Community farm policy was not changed. "We shall be paying 70p a pound in two years if we do not fully into line with the EEC," he said.

Students 'more interested in classics'

An upsurge of interest in classical studies in schools and universities was noted in a Schools Council working party report published yesterday.

The working party, under the chairmanship of Professor Ronald Crossland of Sheffield University, says that although the traditional study of individual classics subjects, such as Latin and Greek literature in the original languages may have lost ground, interest in courses on the classical world and its civilizations is growing.

In the past five years 20 British universities have introduced popular courses in classical civilization, and some universities have made classical studies a main subject in honours degree courses. Many polytechnics also give classical studies an important place in foundation courses.

In schools, seven examination boards have introduced O-level GCE syllabuses in classical studies. Classical courses are also widely available in the CSE system.

"If growth of a subject that it is meeting a re the present prospects in al studies look good report says."

Why emphasizes two why classical studies find a place in the sch rriculum: their general ture value and their value for those wishing on to higher education. (Teaching Classical Schools Council Gr Bulletin 6, Evans/E Educational, £1.15).

Teachers who bring parties of 20 boys and more will be given free places.

Design methods 'end angering North Sea rigs'

Unless further testing is done urgently, serious structural failure of a North Sea oil platform is likely to occur soon, according to two university experts in civil engineering.

Writing in today's issue of *New Scientist*, Dr Alistair Walker and Mr Paul Sibby of the department of civil and municipal engineering at University College London, say that a large metal bridge has collapsed every 30 years since 1847, as a result of complacency in design.

"Investigation of steel oil rig design strongly suggests that it is going the same way as five generations of metal bridges," they report. Part of the largest offshore steel structures, the authors say, are often large cylinders made of fairly thin plating. Much analysis is needed to ensure that they will withstand buckling.

At a function attended by the Duke of Edinburgh, one of the school's old boys, Mr John Kempe, the headmaster, said the boys aged between 12 and 16 to develop in the Gordonstoun tradition.

There would be 15 hours of English tuition a week, but the main feature would be the adventure training programme, including a three-day mountain camping expedition.

The measures he included a change in the c law so that such "poor offences as drunkenness, vagrancy were no longer statute book, and the use of bail, with the pr tion in favour of the person.

Mr Gordon thought people should be so people. The present population is mms. army of inadequately regiment of predators.

Tory has plan to halve jail population

A five-point plan to Britain's prison population put forward yesterday by James Gordon, political of the Tory Reform Gr said at Oxford that "scandalous that we sh squandering financial human assets by keeping men and women in pri

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and threatened in claim after about heater

certainty for this appliance", the memorandum states.

The 14 authorities allege that the CB34 has caused serious troubles and waste of public funds.

In June, 1972, Watford Borough Council signed a £11m contract for 835 units. Within three months of the installation of the first fire, Watford says, consumers complained about performance, difficulty of handling, emission of fumes and the high degree of maintenance and repair required.

By the end of 1974 the contract had been completed, but complaints continued.

A petition containing about 400 signatures said that smoke poured into a room whenever the fire doors were opened. Soot was settling in rooms. The ash pan was difficult to handle, especially for the elderly and handicapped. Fumes caused obnoxious smells and discoloration.

The City of Plymouth had had 740 units installed and was encountering similar difficulties. Nearly 600 units, led the list of dissatisfied customers.

The other councils were: West Wiltshire, Aylesbury Vale, South Derbyshire, Bristol, Bath, Stoke-on-Trent, Windsor and Maidenhead, Basildon, Mid Bedfordshire, Babergh and Hertsmere.

Watford wants the board to receive all the appliances and substitute gas heating systems.

The board has told Watford (in effect) that if it wants gas fires it should approach the gas board. If Watford council did the work it would cost the borough an estimated £200,000.

The NCB has, however, suggested to Watford that it will install new coal-fired systems that burn smokeless coal. Watford would have to meet about 40 per cent of the cost, as well as making good the decoration in the council houses.

Watford councillors will have much to say. They say it is the board's duty to replace the defective units.

The board says that to replace all the units sold to the 14 councils would cost it more than £1m.

It states that the councils cannot sue for compensation because, in the final analysis, there is an arbitration clause written into each of the contracts.

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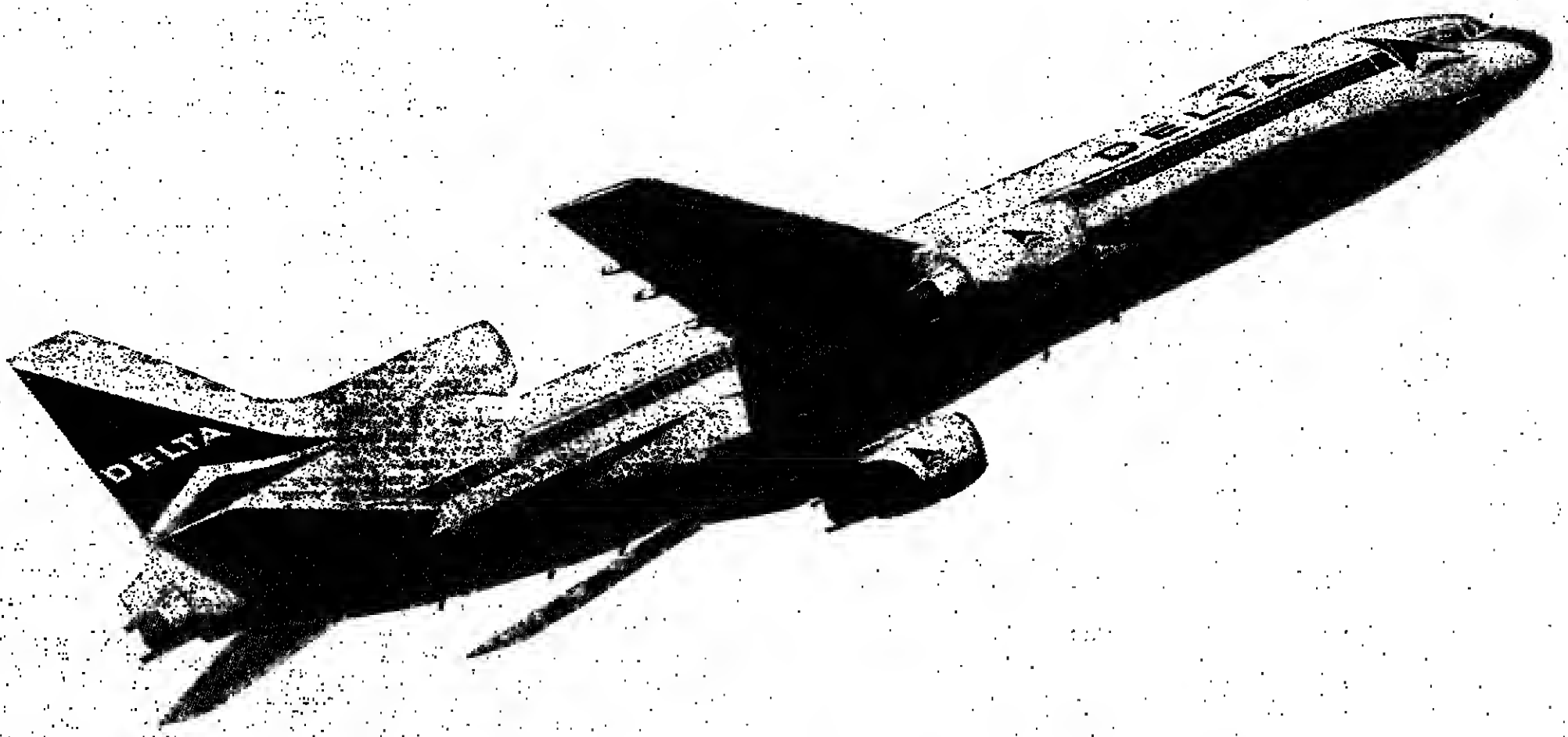
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Lawyers' bodies 'would welcome' royal commission

By Our Legal Correspondent

Both the Bar and the Law Society would welcome a royal commission on the legal profession, a joint statement issued yesterday says.

In the statement Mr Edmund Higgins, President of the Law Society, and Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, Chairman of the Bar, refer to recent criticism of the legal profession in Parliament and the press.

"While it is arguable whether this is the moment in the economic life of the country to embark on such an undertaking, both the Bar and the Law Society wish to make it clear that, far from seeking to avoid a royal commission, they would welcome the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive examination of the structure of the profession, its functions, its remuneration and the services it provides."

It is vital, however, the statement says, if the rights and liberties of the subject are to be preserved, that the legal profession should remain independent. It is also essential in the public interest that the members of the commission should be of the quality and experience needed to deal with a task of such national importance.

er on baby whose illed child

Mr David Jordan, a social worker in the social service department, said a case conference was held when it was learnt that the mother was pregnant. It was decided that on the birth of the child a place of safety order should be obtained. After the boy was born he was removed from the mother.

Dr Stephen Shaw, a psychiatrist, said that during an interview the mother's mood changed from remorse to anger and resentment towards the social worker involved and the foster-parents. The mother was not fit to take care of the child.

Mr Geoffrey Kamil, for the mother, said she had been sentenced to three years imprisonment but was released after 12 months. She was married to another man, not the father of the other two children, and everyone accepted that for the first time there was stability in her life.

Food poisoning in hospital

One of London's largest teaching hospitals is closed to all non-acute medical cases after an outbreak of food poisoning in its admission ward and a geriatric unit.

An urgent inquiry has begun into the cause of salmonella poisoning at Charing Cross Hospital, Euston, which has affected nine patients, all over 65, so far. They have been transferred to Western Hospital near by, which specializes in infectious diseases.

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PARLIAMENT, February 11, 1976

Major private and state airlines no longer to compete with each other: African routes to be divided

House of Commons

British Airways and British Caledonian Airways are to have different spheres of interest for their long-haul routes instead of operating in competition with each other. This was made clear by MR PETER SHORE, Secretary of State for Trade, in a statement about future aviation policy.

He also announced that he has told Laker Airways that their North Atlantic Skytrain is not to go ahead.

He said: Last July, following my review of civil aviation policy, I told the House that I had concluded it was not in the long-term interests of our aviation industry or the economy generally to allow competition between British airlines on long-haul routes. It would in future be out of general policy not to allow more than one British airline to be licensed on any given long-haul route. Instead, British Airways and British Caledonian Airways would have separate spheres of interest for their long-haul scheduled services.

Since my last statement there has been a series of detailed discussions between BA, BCAL, the Civil Aviation Authority, and myself about how the airlines' existing route networks could best be adjusted so as to consolidate their respective spheres of interest. I have now decided that in Africa, where BA and BCAL at present operate competing services, East Africa and the Indian Ocean should be in BA's sphere of interest and Central Africa, including Zambia, in BCAL's.

This exchange should enable both airlines to achieve considerable cost savings through deploying their resources more effectively.

Outside Africa, BCAL will give up the scheduled services to New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Toronto and Singapore via Bahrain, which it holds but is not at present operating. It will also end the exempt charter services it operates to Singapore.

However, it will retain the right to serve Atlanta and Houston via routes for which BA does not hold a licence—and will be the sole British airline to operate this new route when it becomes available for international services. In addition, BCAL's sphere of interest in South America will be extended and it will take over services to Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru from BA.

In making this rearrangement of routes, my objectives have been first, to reinforce the competitive strength of British airlines in the international environment in which they operate; secondly, to arrive at a result which is as fair as possible to both airlines; thirdly, to safeguard employment in the airline industry; and finally, to produce a settlement that would last for a substantial period ahead.

I believe the decisions I have taken do go a long way towards meeting these objectives. BA and BCAL will now be free to concentrate on their core routes and their real rivals, the foreign carriers. BA will be able to plan the development of their services with confidence, and I believe the world free from the uncertainties of "double designation" licences. Similarly, BCAL will have scope in South America, West and Central Africa, and on the new Atlanta/Houston route for future expansion of its long-haul services.

As regards the third objective, I am satisfied that no redundancies will result from the rearrangement

Industry secretary loses £1,000 from his salary: Government defeat by five votes

MR TOM KING, an Opposition spokesman on industry (Bridgewater, C), opening a debate on the motor industry, said that the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr Varley) should be reduced by £1,000 a year.

He said there seemed, however, no sense in urging one party to make a concession on the part of Government to the problem of British Leyland. There was no sign of a change in attitude. In the six months following Government acquisition, there were more strikes than in the six months before.

Much had been said about targets and attempts to monitor them. The next tranche of £100m would be paid to British Leyland in June, but Parliament still had no idea what targets the Government and NEB expected British Leyland to match.

If a change of attitude was being looked for, and a resultant commitment, surely the sensible way would be to tell people what the targets were and then give people a chance to match them.

There was dithering and messing around at British Leyland while a row went on about the price to be paid for shares.

No one in the Government, with the possible exception of the Secretary of State, believed that Chrysler had any prospect of viability. The Secretary of State had said Chrysler would continue operating into the 1980s but that no studies had been done on the position beyond 1979. The claim therefore seemed to be based on a personal opinion, not on any study.

This situation revealed the nonsense of the Government's requirement that Chrysler was a long way to go. But there were hopeful signs.

Although the new arrangements for participation by the workers in the company's planning would inevitably take some time to be set up, they had made an encouraging start. The need for increased sales, productivity and production was understood and recognised by the workers.

There were hopes that this new machinery could make an important contribution to the smooth running of the industry and to full cooperation with all those concerned and therefore to achieve a more profitable and secure future for the industry.

The Secretary of State had said that to improve Britain's industrial performance available resources should go to those industries with the greatest need. He had said that the Government had a duty to ensure that the motor industry was not left behind.

MR VARLEY, Secretary of State for Industry (Chesterfield, Lab), said that the Government had a duty to ensure that the motor industry was not left behind.

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Changes in voting system sought

House of Lords

There was a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the crisis and the system by which they elected the House of Commons, said LORD BYEE, who opened a debate on the declining efficiency of the political and electoral system.

He said for the last 10 years had neither proper respect nor stable government. He said that the October 1974 election had been a disaster and three changes of government.

The frequency of these elections, he said, was a direct cause of the government's instability and the consequent loss of confidence in the system.

He said that the House of Commons, elected by the first past the post system, was a poor reflection of the country, with disastrous results for the country's management. This was one of the major causes of the loss of confidence in the system.

In the interests of the country, he said, it was essential to give high priority to the special position of the motor industry in the economy.

He hoped that this group would be in with the tripartite machinery. The Government had set up for other industries as part of their industrial relations strategy. It was essential to give high priority to the special position of the motor industry in the economy.

MR RICHARD WAINWRIGHT (Colne Valley, L) said that what was needed was a change in the way in which the House of Commons was elected. He said that the House of Commons was a poor reflection of the country, with disastrous results for the country's management. This was one of the major causes of the loss of confidence in the system.

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Minister defends Skytrain decision

MR HIGGINS, Opposition spokesman on trade (Worthing, C), questioning Mr Shore on his civil aviation statement, said: This is a highly complex and important set of proposals. Will the Minister be introducing a Bill or a statutory instrument?

On the broad relationship between BCAL and British Airways, we welcome the fact that the second force concept. What is necessary now is a framework within which airlines can undertake investment in aircraft in broad-based aircraft.

We agree on the need to have a period of stability until the second force concept can be allowed to develop. We remain concerned that having given the CAA authority and in the past guidance—and is continuing to do so—he is retaining what is in effect a two-tier system.

This gives causes for concern regarding the decision on Laker Airways. We have great concern on this in all parts of the House.

Has he reached the decision on the basis of agreed figures with Laker Airways? Will he publish his own figures and those of Laker Airways so that the House can take a view on this important issue?

He spoke of the need to end uncertainty. If the CAA believe that the design and licensing of Laker Airways should be done and Laker Airways also believe so, who is it that is worried about uncertainty?

MR SHORE—I am not proposing legislation, but I am proposing an appropriate affirmative order procedure. I am glad he has stressed the need for British aviation to have a period of stability as possible. They do not have the constant threat of change if they are to plan for the future.

He understood that Conservative MPs were unhappy about the Skytrain issue. There is a case which I will put at the right time (he said). The difficulty with figures is that there are a dozen or more assumptions which lead to a result as to what will be the probable effects of Skytrain.

His assumptions are the critical facts we have to consider before arriving at a conclusion. I have put clearly in the statement the assumptions which I have made. It is a relatively narrow area. Beyond that there is a substantial measure of agreement.

MR KERR (Hounslow, Fetham and Epsom, C) said that the Skytrain decision was a disaster. He said that the Skytrain decision was a disaster. He said that the Skytrain decision was a disaster.

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'Not a true vote'—Government Chief Whip

During the division on the Opposition motion to reduce the salary of the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr Varley) by £1,000, and with many MPs in the Chamber swamping the result, the Government Chief Whip (Mr. George Thomas) said that the vote was not a true vote.

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MPs reject Bill to amend law on shop hours

SIR JOHN LANGFORD-HOLT (Sheffields, C) unsuccessfully sought leave to introduce the Shops (Amendment) Bill, which would amend the Shops Act 1950 to 1965. Leave was refused by 159 votes to 151—majority against, eight.

He said that the Bill would exclude from the week-day closing provisions shops operated entirely by the owners. The moment an owner employed anyone the shop would automatically cease to be affected by the Bill.

The basic law, though there were exceptions, was that shops closed at 8 pm on weekdays and at 9 pm on Saturdays. There were, however, a number of exceptions and the law was in a muddle and lacked clarity.

In presenting the Bill he was not concerned with trading on Sundays, though the greatest nonsense was that it was legal on a Sunday to sell wine and beer and to sell fish and chips.

Was it feasible, either, that large firms in the High Street would stand aside and be willing to lose cash while owner-occupied businesses, possibly employing members of the family, were allowed to open all day long?

MR TORNEY (Bradford, South, Lab) said that the Bill would be a disaster. He said that the Bill would be a disaster. He said that the Bill would be a disaster.

He said that the Bill would be a disaster. He said that the Bill would be a disaster. He said that the Bill would be a disaster.

West Midlands Bill rejected by 164 votes

On the motion for the second reading of the West Midlands County Council Bill, the Bill was rejected by 164 votes to 104—majority against, 60.

MR PARK (Coventry, North-East, Lab) said that the Bill was a disaster. He said that the Bill was a disaster. He said that the Bill was a disaster.

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Industrial democracy in the public sector

MR WRIGLESWORTH (Teeside, Thornaby, Lab) asked the Minister for Industry what progress had been made in considering industrial democracy in the public sector.

MR SHORE—The Government has already set up the committee of inquiry to advise on questions relating to representation at board level in the public sector, and has also set in hand a study of the role of employees in relation to decision-making in the nationalized industries.

Industrial democracy in the public sector presents special problems because of the role of Parliament and the need to ensure that the interests of the electorate and, so far as the nationalized industries are concerned, the interests of the public are protected.

It is fundamental to the working of democracy as we know it that elected representatives take decisions and act in the interests of the community as a whole; that principles cannot be breached. But, within the need to preserve the accountability of elected representatives and the requirements of the public interest, employees and their representatives in the public services should be given the maximum opportunity to contribute their views on matters of legitimate staff interest.

Accordingly, a coordinated series of studies is now proposed, in consultation with the appropriate unions and management, into the scope for the extension of industrial democracy within the public sector. The studies will be initiated by the departments concerned. The intention is that the studies should be completed in time for the Government to be able to take an overall view of the private and public sectors after the committee of inquiry into industrial democracy in the private sector reports.

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Community's readiness to resume trade talks with Spain

European Parliament

After several questions about relations between Spain and the Community, the House of Representatives, with more questions to be dealt with, the Parliament decided on a debate on the subject, the House of Representatives, with more questions to be dealt with, the Parliament decided on a debate on the subject, the House of Representatives, with more questions to be dealt with, the Parliament decided on a debate on the subject.

MR THORN—Council is of the opinion that we are in a situation where we can take up negotiations with Spain. We are in a situation where we can take up negotiations with Spain. We are in a situation where we can take up negotiations with Spain.

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asks Basques drive errorists

tended to a total of nearly 23 years by the Public Order Court, which deals only with political offences. One of the defendants, a girl, was 16 years old. The outcome of the appeals was not immediately made known.

In Barcelona, a police magistrate today interrogated a Spanish television news reporter who has already spent three days in jail since his arrest last Sunday at the scene of a big demonstration in favour of amnesty, civil rights and Catalan home rule. In the same case, police today freed a girl aged 16 after holding her prisoner for four days while investigating the painting of anti-regime slogans on walls.

The Government banned a demonstration planned by Barcelona community associations in the industrial suburb of Sabadell, to protest against the alleged incompetence of municipal authorities. The authorities also prohibited two concerts by a protest singer, Señora Elisa Serna, who was to have sung in southern and western Spain.

In Madrid, a delegation of Spanish journalists gathered at the Ministry of Information and Tourism soon after Señor Fraga spoke on the radio. They addressed a letter to the Señor Adolfo Martín Camero, the Minister of Information, telling him of widespread discontent among Spanish journalists about the indictment on Tuesday of a reporter for the Madrid daily *El Mundo*, who refused to reveal the source of a newspaper report on the illegal Democratic Military Union.

In Madrid, Professor Enrique Tierno Galván, leader of the illegal Popular Socialist Party, returned yesterday to the podium at a Spanish university for the first time since he was hanged from teaching 11 years ago for political reasons. Those attending the lecture applauded him warmly, and shouted, "Amnesty, amnesty".

But the professor did not get his post back. He was merely a guest lecturer, albeit one well received by a crowd of about 4,000, not all of whom could squeeze into the lecture hall.

Madrid, Feb. 11.—King Juan Carlos's special commission for democratic reforms met for the first time today as a wave of strikes and protests spread to include most of Barcelona's 13,000 municipal services, including policemen and the fire brigade.

Throughout Spain strikes and protests—many of them inspired by left-wing groups pressing for political change—were keeping about 100,000 workers idle.—UPI.

March in Djibouti without clashes

For an hour, the demonstrators eyed the troops across the barbed wire entanglements, but did not try to break through them. The troops, for their part, did not attempt to penetrate into the native quarter.

The demonstrators carried streamers and placards, reading: "Down with the puppet regime of Ared (the Prime Minister)", "Independence with peace," and "Immediate liberation of political prisoners." Some also demanded the withdrawal of French troops from the territory.

Mr. Hassan Gouled, the president of the league, who was among the crowd accompanied by M. Joseph Franceschi, a French Socialist deputy, himself gave the order to disperse after an hour.

Another patient dies after new type treatment

Hanover, Feb. 11.—A fifth patient died today after treatment in a high-pressure chamber which a doctor decompressed unusually quickly, police said.

Four patients died on Monday, but 15 other patients also treated in the chamber were off the critical list. Most of the patients suffered from heart ailments and were over 60.

The state public prosecutor has now closed the investigation offering the high-pressure therapy and began proceedings against it.—UPI.

on Irish plea to trial pay rule

agreed to amend this Act to save jobs in this sector which employs between 3,000 and 4,000 people, mainly women. At the same time it applied to Brussels for a derogation from Community rules.

The Commission has reacted coolly to the Irish request on the ground that any dispensation, however temporary, might set a dangerous precedent for other member governments during the present recession.

Nevertheless, at a meeting in Strasbourg today, the Commission asked a group of five of its members, including Mr. George Thomson, the Commissioner for regional policy, to consider possible ways "to use the maximum facilities available under Community instruments". This could take the form of payments from the Community's social fund or state aids by the Irish Government to the footwear industry.

After contacts with the Irish authorities, employers and trade unions, the group is due to report back to next week's regular meeting of the Commission for a final decision.

Lisbon shop workers shut down businesses

Lisbon, Feb. 11.—Groups of striking shop workers closed down most of the central business district of the capital today by threatening violence against shop owners who at first defied their one-day strike and stayed open.

Police patrolled the streets in numbers, but there were no reports of violent clashes.

The last time the left-led shop workers' union staged a similar strike an attempt to wreck a toy shop led to a gunfight between police and strikers, claiming one life and injuring six.

The union called the strike in protest against the suspension of pay talks because of a Government-imposed wage freeze.

Senhor Tomas Rosa, the Minister of Labour, and the shop owners' union opposed the strike, describing it as a political manoeuvre rather than a simple wage dispute, and urged the public to ignore the strike call.

Although most big department stores closed, about half of the small firms in the city centre at first opened in defiance of the strike. But many later shut their doors as groups of workers went from shop to shop threatening to take action against them.

Under Government proposals published today, any newspaper refusing to disclose the identity of the author of a political article will be fined up to 100,000 escudos (£2,000).—UPI and Remer.



Dr. Luns (second from left) after his talks at the Foreign Office, with Mr. Callaghan, Minister of State, Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Peart, Minister of Agriculture.

Dr Luns giving British view to Iceland

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is still seeking negotiations with Iceland over the cod war. Mr. Wilson yesterday brought Dr. Luns, the Nato Secretary-General up to date on the state of affairs after the recent failure of talks with Iceland, and made a number of points emphasising Britain's willingness to reach a settlement.

Dr. Luns, who is not acting as a negotiator but rather exploring the position at the request

of the Nato Council, will put Mr. Wilson's points to the Icelandic Government. The main change in the situation is that the British trawler industry has agreed to introduce a policy of voluntary restraint, though the total catch of cod, at 85,000 tons a year, still would be more than Iceland is prepared to concede.

Whether any progress is possible now depends on the outcome of Dr. Luns's conversations in Reykjavik. He is due to return to Brussels today.

Mr. Wilson, who was joined by Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, assured Dr. Luns that the Government was well aware of the implications of the dispute. So far as Nato was concerned; but in the absence of a party willing to negotiate, it was hard for Britain to settle the matter.

Britain is ready to accept a short-term solution, if Iceland prefers that, but there has been no sign yet of an understanding.

Cologne carnival planners accused of offending jobless and 'guest-workers'

From Dan van der Var

A legal action and a threat of violence have introduced a sour note into the preparations for one of the most elaborate carnival celebrations, the Rose Monday processions in Cologne. A lawyer representing 130 private citizens, who clubbed together to retain him, has lodged a complaint against the Cologne carnival celebration committee at a criminal court, alleging "incitement of the populace".

At the same time, a hitherto unknown organization calling itself "the Popular Carnival Defence Committee" has threatened to storm the procession in an anonymous letter to the organizers.

Although there is no evidence of a link between the court action and the threat, both are aimed at the withdrawal from the great procession of two floats, regarded by the protesters as defaming West Germany's 1,300,000 jobless and 2,300,000 foreign workers.

The procession consists of hundreds of floats which take several hours to pass through the packed streets on Rose Monday, which falls on March 1 this year, the day before Shrove Tuesday.

Some carry brass bands, others girls in peasant costume or mock "soldiers" in carnival uniform who hurl handfuls of remarkably hard swats on to the heads of spectators.

There are also floats on topical subjects. Prominent politicians are parodied, espe-

ally in an election year like this one, and current issues with their attendant popular prejudices are used as themes. One of the controversial floats shows an unemployed man and a girl sharing a huge bed. The man is depicted grinning with joy as the postmen (all three figures are of luridly painted papier mache) hands over his unemployment benefit. Torn-up "job offers" are strewn under the bed. The motto reads: "Heigh ho, how nice it is in bed."

The other float shows a Turkish "guest-worker" and his wife, both beaming and in national costume, with their 15 children, who are holding placards labelled: "Child allowances!" The motto says: "That is why, I tell you, move to the Rhine."

The carnival committee's reply to the protests does little to improve the atmosphere. It denies any wish to defame anybody and says that it is "distorted fantasy" to see the two floats as defamatory.

The unemployment float, the statement adds, did not in any way label the majority of jobless people but was aimed at "the minority among them who seek by ignoble means to gain advantages at the expense of their remaining unemployed colleagues."

On the Turkish float, the committee says that it sought only to depict "a happy Turkish family rejoicing over the payment of child allowances for their numerous progeny."

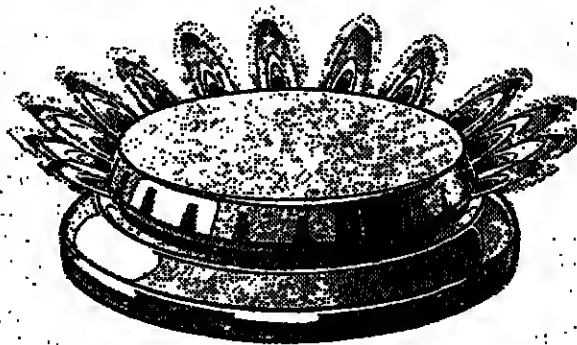
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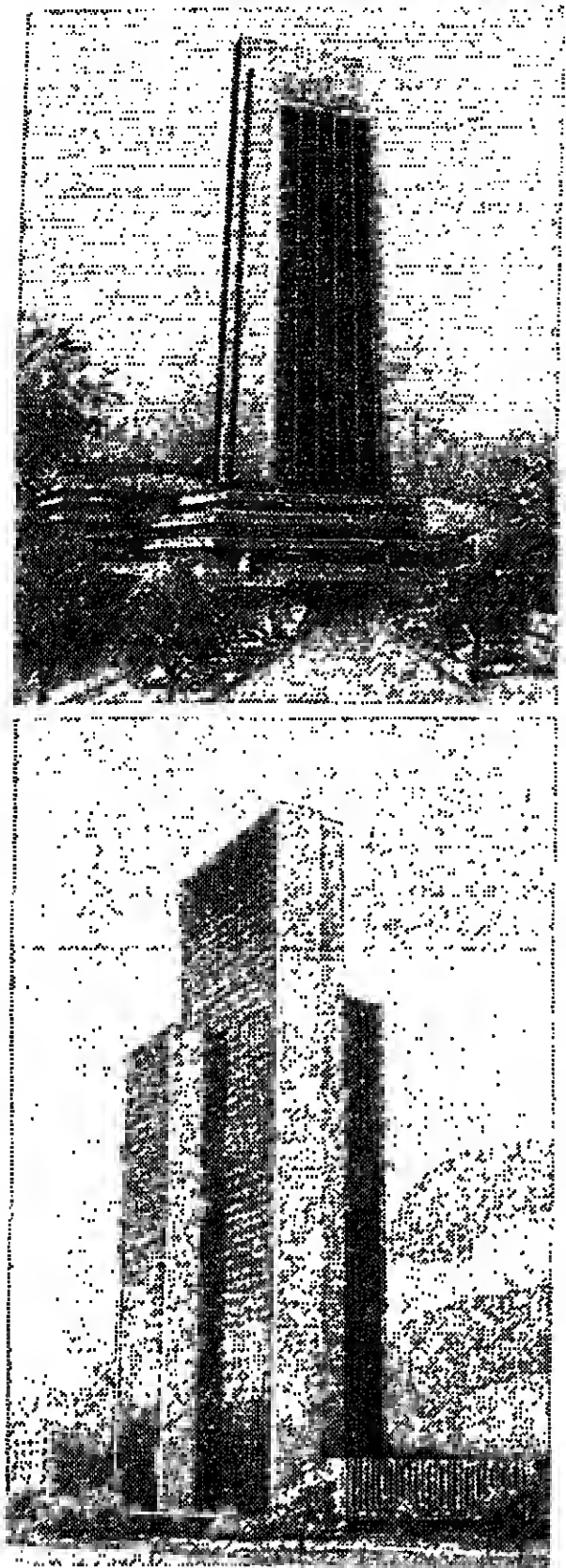
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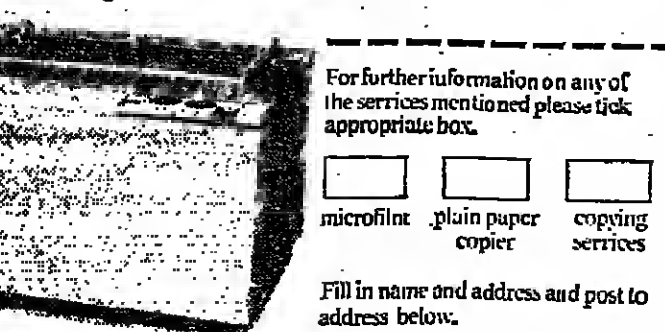


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OVERSEAS

South African Cabinet discusses danger of confrontation as MPLA races onward in Angola

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Feb 11

The South African Cabinet met in Cape Town today amid deepening concern about the situation in Angola.

As reports reached here of unexpectedly rapid advances by Popular Movement (MPLA) and Cuban forces, the fear grew of an imminent confrontation involving the South African forces, which are manning a defensive line inside Angolan territory.

In a startling series of victories, the MPLA has captured the southern Angolan towns of Moçamedes and Sa da Bandeira, Luanda Radio reported tonight. If confirmed, this means that the advancing MPLA and Cuban army is now only about 125 miles from the south-west African border and less than 100 miles from the South African defensive line.

Since last weekend the MPLA claims to have captured five major cities which were formerly under the control of the rival Unita movement. Amongst these are Lohito, Benguela, Moçamedes and Sa da Bandeira. This leaves Silva Porto, about 80 miles east of Huambo, as the only town of any size still in Unita hands.

Reports of refugees fleeing in panic from Silva Porto. Opinion in South Africa is divided about how far south the MPLA-Cuban Army intends to advance. Some feel that, having lost control of the most important parts of the country, the MPLA will prefer to con-

solidate its present position rather than seek a fight with South Africa—an engagement which could intensify into an air war involving Mirages and Jaguars. They argue that the Soviet Union has already gained far more in Angola than it originally hoped for and will not want to push its luck any further at this stage.

However, another view is that the victorious MPLA will want to take control over the whole of Angola and will not tolerate a South African presence even along the southern fringes of the country. This is certainly the impression I received during a recent visit to Angola, where it was made clear that the fight would not stop until the MPLA was in full control, from Cabinda in the north to the Canene river in the south.

South Africa's options are now severely restricted. It can either stay in southern Angola and fight alone or withdraw back to the South-West African (Namibian) border and thus hope to avoid a major engagement.

In public the country's leaders are inclined to the first option. Both Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, and Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, have said that the country's defence force will protect both the border and projects for which South Africa is responsible. These include the Cunene river hydroelectric and irrigation scheme, a part of which is situated inside Angola.

However, the decision to

stand firm is being questioned in some quarters and a growing body of opinion believes that a South African withdrawal from southern Angola is inevitable. This is the line taken by the *Johannesburg Star*, which said in a leading article today that if South African troops did stay and fight they might win the battle but never the war. "Sometimes, inevitably, we will be obliged to withdraw,"

Withdrawal, the newspaper added, would be neither weakness nor appeasement; it would recognize the realities of today's Angola and the will of Africa, where the Organization of African Unity has given official recognition to the MPLA. It was perhaps the only route to peaceful coexistence with South Africa's new neighbour.

The influential Afrikaans paper *Die Burger*, which is very close to the Prime Minister, also suggested today that South Africa will now have to come to terms with the left-wing regime in Angola. The prospect of an MPLA government in Angola is something which South Africa, like the rest of the world, will have to live with, whether we like it or not.

Meanwhile, the South African Government is faced with the prospect of having to deal with a new flood of refugees from the Angolan war. According to reports reaching Pretoria as many as 10,000 people are fleeing South-West Africa and Zambia after the capture of Huambo.

MPLA wins tussle for recognition by OAU

Continued from page 1

6.35mm pistol and ammunition when he returned on Tuesday.

Mr White said he saw the bodies lying in a ditch when he was on a patrol. Mr Callan had told his regimental sergeant-major "You know what to do" and the executions took place on Sunday, February 1, Mr White added.

When he returned to the camp, he found that Mr Georgiou had gone out on a patrol with Mr Copeland and a corporal. They returned in due course but without Mr Georgiou. Mr White said he was told Mr Georgiou had been injured and the muscles blown off his left leg. Mr White, a pilot, was, therefore, asked to take a helicopter to get him out but he said yesterday that he had refused.

"No one the less Mr Copeland and the corporal took me to the airport. I had a gun loaded in my pocket and was about to shoot them. But Mr Holden Roberto, the National Front President, and Colonel McAleese were there," said Mr White.

"They seemed to greet the RSM and the corporal as old friends and then Colonel McAleese hit the RSM with the butt of a rifle about four or five times."

According to Mr White, the colonel had heard about the executions and he screamed at Mr Copeland: "What were you doing shooting white mercenaries?"

Mr White said Mr Copeland was taken to a house in Magueta and court-martialled by Mr McAleese. "I was watching from a jeep when the RSM was shot by a firing squad of British mercenaries. He tried to run round the back of the house behind a van but he was shot in the back," said Mr White.

Mr White said: "I am certain that Callan is dead now. He was completely ruthless and laughed at shooting people. Callan and his two officers were all trigger-happy and spent most of their time shooting black people for fun."

Mr White, aged 34, and a haulage contractor, said Mr Holden Roberto later told him that Callan had been made to the families of the executed men. Of the group of 98 mercenaries, he said 36 were dead, including

Condemned RSM ran for life but was shot

Continued from page 1

the executed men, and five more were missing. Thirteen had been wounded.

None of the names of the executed men has been released but one was yesterday named by a comrade as Mr Jamie McAleese, who was 34 and had served with the Special Air Services. He is said to come from the London area. Before he died he is reported to have said in the fighting to have saved the lives of two men.

Mr Copeland served in the Parachute Regiment and the Special Air Services as well. He was in his early 30s and was a sergeant in the British Army. One of his former comrades yesterday said of him: "A nice man you could not hope to meet in civilian life." He came from London and had volunteered to join an aborigine mercenary force to fight in Rhodesia last year.

In fact he had served with Mr McAleese and the two men knew each other well.

He went out to Angola with the advance party of 13 men in January by Security Advisory Services, the Camberley firm organizing the mercenaries. Mr Georgiou travelled out there earlier in the same month after approaching Mr Nicholas Hall, who started the recruiting for the FNLA in Britain.

Because the two men had served together in the Parachute Regiment.

FNLA sources in London yesterday confirmed that Mr Georgiou was dead after a phone call to Kinshasa, Zaire.

The executions have been a factor contributing to the return of the mercenaries this week although a number have been offered "substantial financial inducements" to return, including a rise in their £150-a-week pay.

Two of the men were yesterday sent to prison after appearing in court on charges for offences committed before they left. Mr Norman Trevor Hollanby, aged 22, an ex-Cuardsman of Earl's Court, London, was sentenced to nine months at Maidstone Crown Court for theft and breaking the conditions of a suspended sentence. Mr Dennis Andrew O'Brien, aged 27, of Sandhurst, Berkshire, was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for burglary.

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US tax man steps into bribes scandal

From Frank Vogel

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Feb 11

The United States Internal Revenue Service has ordered by Mr William R. French, Jr., the Secretary of the Treasury, to increase its efforts to mine whether American companies made tax deductible questionable payments to foreign politicians and government officials to secure sales.

At the last count more than 20 big American companies have in recent years sent a total of well above \$150m abroad to bribe foreign officials. The amounts to be investigated from straight bribes to a and politicians, to secret party contribution questionable commission sales agents.

The Internal Revenue Service could well demand independent audits of the big companies, and for some of this could cause serious difficulties. The investigations could finally produce a list of just what the companies have done and what they had.

The New York Times reported today that the multinational companies documents showing that of dollars in agents' fees been paid by Lockheed secret accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for a Spain, Nigeria and South Africa.

This report adds yet a dimension to the Lockheed affair, as the United States since 1963 had a complete arms embargo on military to South Africa. The committee's documents show that Lockheed tried to circumvent this.

Informed sources in Washington said that the South Africa deals concluded by Lockheed concerned the sale of six and 10 aircraft to a company owned by the C. ment.

The aircraft are not military but civilian versions of Lockheed C130 transports known as the 1-100-30. sources point out, however, conversion of the 1-100-30 aircraft that can be military and can perform some functions as the C. fairly easy.

Our Johannesburg Correspondent writes: Mr John N. Johannesburg businessman has represented Lockheed South Africa for the past years, rejected any charges of impropriety involving South Africa.

He said Lockheed had him money to cover a 1 had incurred because United States dollar devalued while he was to help finance a sale South African company. "Not one cent was asked or received by Safair for bottom," he said.

Our Rome Correspondent writes: The Italian Parliament permanent inquiry committee has today announced that two former ministers had accepted from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Signor Angelo Castelli president of the committee said that no requests for investigation had been received but the commission would anyway.

Newspapers protested that while in Holland Thorne is tottering and countries have promptly inquiries into similar fions, in Italy the reaction has been more muted.

Even, Feb 11—Lo paid its representative £40,000 (about £8,000 1972) to pass on to two German political party Government spokesman today.

But the money stayed hands of the representatives as some would say of his fingers," the spokesman a press conference.

He said that Lockheed paid the money in cash with the hoped-for sale executive jet to the West German Central Bank. He did not buy the aircraft reasons that had not been planned.

Guatemala accepts £60,000 British voluntary aid

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Guatemala has turned down the British Government's offer of aid after the earthquake, but it is accepting supplies of blankets and warm clothing from British voluntary agencies. These were arriving overland, after being flown to El Salvador from Catwick yesterday.

The Guatemalan refusal of "official" help is no doubt to be explained by its quarrel with Britain over the status of Belize.

Mr Reg Prentice, the Minister of Overseas Development, in a written parliamentary answer yesterday, said that the decline of help had been expressed with elaborate tact. The message from the Guatemalan President read: "Thank you very much. I am very sincerely grateful. It is very thoughtful on the part of the British Government but just now we do not require it."

The cost of transporting the aircraft load of supplies, as a consequence of this refusal was taken over by voluntary agencies, working through the Disasters Emergencies Committee.

Nearly £60,000 has been spent on tents, blankets, medical supplies, high protein foods, and a sanitation unit.

Army expedition sets out to climb Everest

By Ronald Faux

The British Army Mountaineering Association, armed with 12,000 feet of rope, 40 aluminium ladders and 200 bottles of oxygen, begins its advance on Mount Everest next week. It will link up with a party from the Royal Nepalese Army for the climb.

The 33 members have contributed up to two months' pay, a total of about £9,000, towards the £50,000 cost of running the expedition, but further backing has come from a British firm, Everest Double Glazing. The Times is maintaining its historic connexion with the mountain by sending a reporter to accompany the expedition.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Sutherland, of The Gloucestershire Regiment, who was the first mountaineer to climb two 25,000 ft. is to lead the attempt, which will follow the original

route climbed in 1953 by the British expedition. This is the last British expedition before the mid-1980s, a mountain is booked fully before and after the monsoon until then.

The association began planning seven years ago the original hope was that expedition could make attempt in 1975. It was to be the Everest starting however, by a group of mired Japanese women reached the summit.

Instead, its expedition attempted Nuptse, a side of Everest, and four climbers were killed. This was a cloud over the present climb, but Colonel Sutherland, said at a press conference today in the Everest room at the Royal Geographical Society in London that the route attempted was higher but ably less difficult technically than Nuptse.

The 1878 Cruelty to Animals Act slappers to a century in August... it governs animal experimentation without use 5½ million living animals yearly—2.3rd for non-medical tests... humane alternatives to animals exist... this Victorian Act hinders the development... of humane compassion... themes

Information on the Abolition of Vivisection, available from The British Society for the Abolition of Vivisection, 47 Whitehall, London SW1. Free postcard available from The British Society for the Abolition of Vivisection, 47 Whitehall, London SW1. Donations gratefully received.

SCRAP THE ACT

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can federal to court for higher pay

for district court judges are now worth, respectively, only \$29,230 and \$27,510 in 1969 dollars. The judges did not formally petition for indexation. But they sought "damages" for the diminution of their pay since 1959, and when they judiciously called "such further or other relief as this court should deem appropriate." In other words, new pay scales.

The judges have got themselves good lawyer in Mr Arthur Goldberg, a former Supreme Court justice. And it is clear that the suit has been brewing in chambers for some time.

The suit has also been preceded by a ceaseless succession of speeches by Chief Justice Warren Burger of the United States Supreme Court. He has denounced many audiences that came to hear him speak on such subjects as the threat to justice or liberty these past couple of years, by devoting his entire time to a demand for greater pay. His warning is based on the principle that the low pay will not attract minds of quality to the bench.

Some judges were reported today to be concerned about the resort to litigation, but this is the most litigious of all countries, and this is some kind of apogee.

It provokes immediate new questions that fascinate many Americans: the Court of Claims judges are in the same financial position as the plainiffs. Are they facing a conflict of interest?

Hearst case judge deals blow to defence by allowing taped evidence

San Francisco, Feb 11.—A federal judge ruled today that damaging testimony against Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress, could be heard at her trial on armed robbery charges. This would include evidence of her later participation in a gun battle at a sports goods store in Los Angeles.

Judge Oliver Carter also ruled that the prosecution could tell the jury how Miss Hearst, who is 21, failed to take advantage of at least 10 opportunities to escape during her 19 months with her terrorist captors, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).

Included in evidence which the defence asked to be excluded were statements Miss Hearst made on tape and to people she met during her time as "Tania", the underground convert of the SLA. In these, she said that she had taken part willingly in the bank raid in San Francisco on April 15, 1974.

Judge Carter said in his ruling: "By the preponderance of the evidence, the Government has established that the statements made by the defendant after the happening of the bank robbery, whether by tape recording or oral communication or in writing, were made voluntarily."

The judge's ruling was seen as a big setback for the defence, which had tried to get evidence of all of Miss Hearst's activities after the bank robbery excluded. Her lawyer, Mr F. Lee Bailey, claimed that the prosecution wanted to bring this evidence in merely to give her a "bad character."

Mr Bailey claimed that if the statements, which he maintained were forced from Miss Hearst by her captors, could be used to convict her, it would encourage other underground terrorist groups to use the same formula.

But the prosecutor, Mr James Browning, said that Miss Hearst's own statement from the stand earlier this week that she had been terrorized and threatened with death every minute of her stay with the SLA and had never been a willing convert of the group, was unbelievable.

At a news conference after the judge's ruling, Mr Bailey said the likelihood of Miss Hearst's testifying again before the jury "has increased sharply" so she can make her reply to the evidence which has now been declared admissible.

He said the apparently strong language in the judge's decision was simply "the minimum statement he could make not to risk having it overturned by appeal."

When the judge announced his decision, Miss Hearst frowned and looked worried.

The jury was then recalled, and the trial proceeded with more witnesses testifying about the robbery at the bank.

During arguments on the admission of the statements and evidence about events occurring after the robbery, Mr Browning said that Miss Hearst's two surviving kidnappers, William and Emily Harris, reflected a chance to testify against her.

In arguing for the later admission before the jury of tapes broadcast in Miss Hearst's voice, Mr Browning said the court was well aware that it would be an error for the Government to call the only people who could testify that Miss Hearst was not coerced.

—Reuter and UPI

Lebanon to retain pact on top posts

Beirut, Feb 11.—The Syrian inspired political agreement which ended the Lebanese civil war will leave unchanged the unwritten pact by which the President of the Republic is always a Maronite Christian.

But Mr Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, speaking to journalists after the weekly Cabinet meeting, said this would not be set down in writing as Maronite political leaders had proposed. Some Muslim politicians vigorously opposed any written accord on the religious distribution of the country's three senior offices—President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of Parliament—while accepting that there should be no change in the present arrangement.

When Lebanon gained its independence in 1943, its political leaders agreed that the head of state should always be a Maronite, the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim, and the Speaker a Shiite Muslim. A spokesman for the biggest party representing the Maronites, the Phalangists, said tonight the Christians had proposed that the pact should now be set down in writing, but they had not insisted on it.

He added that the party's political bureau would discuss the decision not to put the pact in writing when it met tomorrow. "It is a matter of a certain confidence. The importance of accords is the sincerity with which they are applied, whether they are written or not," the spokesman declared.

—Reuter

Renewal of terrorism feared in Israel

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, Feb 11

Security forces in Israel are taking precautions against an expected renewal of terrorist activity by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in what is described as "a desperate attempt to reassert its presence in the administered (occupied) areas."

The PLO is thought to be trying to prevent King Hussein's attempt to reassert his influence in the West Bank, which has American and qualified Israeli support, and to deter pro-Jordanian elements in the West Bank municipal elections in April.

Security officials report an upsurge in terrorist activity, citing the ambush of an Army patrol by gunmen in Gaza on Monday night, and attacks on buses in the Nablus area. There were no casualties, but the ambush has caused alarm because it comes after the report of the arrest of an Al Fatah group in the area, which has been free of terrorist activity for two years.

If there is a resurgence it may be due to local anger over the American veto which has blocked the entry of the PLO into peace talks and reopened the way for Jordan, which has no claim to Gaza. Extremists among Arabs and Jews are threatening what slender hopes remain of peace and coexistence.

In an attempt to prevent the Government from offering any territorial concessions on the West Bank, the Gush Emunim movement today disclosed a "master plan" for the establishment of 100 new Jewish settlements in the Arab areas.

A spokesman said it had been submitted for Government approval but did not say where the proposed settlements would be sited.

Gush Emunim has already set up a number of illegal settlements close to Arab towns with the tacit support of some ministers. The settlers near Nablus, who could not be evicted, were allowed to move into an Army camp and are now being provided with prefabricated houses. The settlement has provoked widespread demonstrations by Arabs.

Hundreds of Arab high school pupils again demonstrated violently in Jerusalem today against a recent magistrate's ruling that Jews have the right to pray on the Temple Mount (Har es Sharif), where Al Aqsa mosque stands. The young people were turned away by elders of the Muslim Supreme Council.

They clashed with security forces when they ran through the Old City's narrow streets, ordering shopkeepers to close their premises and breaking the windows of some who refused. Twenty-six were arrested.

The continuation of demonstrations against the magistrate's ruling, even though it has been repudiated by the Police Minister, who has made clear that the ban on Jewish prayer is still in force, has aroused suspicion of outside management of the riots.

The Jerusalem District Attorney has submitted an appeal against the acquittal by the magistrate of several right-wing Jews who were accused of a breach of the peace by holding public prayers on the Temple Mount.

UN attempt to break Cyprus deadlock

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Feb 11

Talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots are to resume in Vienna on Tuesday, the United Nations announced today. Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, will be present as part of his efforts to achieve a solution.

The last round of talks, held in New York in September, came to nothing. According to United Nations officials, Turkey prevented the Turkish Cypriots from producing new proposals as a means of breaking the deadlock.

Since then, there has been an agreement between the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers, reached in Brussels in December, on the process to be followed. Dr Waldheim, in today's announcement, called on the parties to "resume the talks without preconditions, with a view to arriving at a comprehensive agreement."

Muzorewa may be in Rhodesia talks

Government, the bishop would possibly be in a position to persuade many of the guerrillas to end the fighting.

Another factor which Mr Smith is believed to have accepted is that Mr Muzorewa still only commands his strongest following among the Ndebele tribe, which totals about 750,000 out of six million blacks. Bishop Muzorewa would be needed to link up with Mr Nkomo and again present a united black nationalist front speaking for the two majority tribes, the Ndebele and Shona. The bishop has been out of Rhodesia since June.

Mr Smith is on record as saying this about the bishop: "but military and political leaders abroad, such as the Rev Ndabandabi Sithole and Mr James Chikereza, would be arrested if they crossed the border. Another militant, Mr Robert Mugabe, is known to be aiming for the ANC leadership and to have been largely instrumental in planning the present guerrilla incursions.

It is believed that Bishop Muzorewa might want to disassociate himself from the militant leaders and may be tempted to return to Salisbury.

guerrillas renew Sahara attacks

Hiats are now being dropped by officials here in the effect that Algeria is not going to be trapped into jeopardizing its industrialization and development programmes by being drawn into a ruinous military exercise. "There is to be no backing down, however, on the principle of self-determination."

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, declared publicly yesterday that the Saharans had convinced him they did not want to be Moroccan and that the only way of resolving the problem now was by fighting.

Rabat, Feb 11.—Moroccan Army units are closing in on Mahbes, the last important Polisario base in the Western Sahara, but have not yet occupied the outpost, which is 40 miles from the Algerian border, official sources said today.—AP.

Hanoi's hand seen behind Burma clashes

Rangoon, Feb 11.—Fierce clashes between Burmese troops and communist insurgents have left some 250 people dead and increased suspicions here that newly-formed guerrilla squads were controlled and armed by Hanoi.

Official communiques said security forces killed more than 200 guerrillas with the loss of 46 Government troops in battles along the Burma-Laos border in November and December.

Accounts of the clashes indicated that the insurgents had crossed into Burma from Laos and withdrew there after meeting stiff opposition from Government troops.—Reuter.

old comrades get cabinet posts

President of the Sudanese Socialist Union, the country's only legal party, five years ago. He becomes Interior Minister.

Both officers were members of the Revolutionary Command Council which ruled Sudan until President Nimeiry was elected in October 1971.

Changes were also made in the leadership of the Sudanese Socialist Union. In a televised speech on Monday in which he announced the impending reshuffle, President Nimeiry said there would be no change in the policies of his regime.

Agence France Presse.

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THE ARTS

'The Rokeby Venus'

The Rokeby Venus by Velázquez will be the subject of the National Gallery's fifth "Painting in Focus" exhibition from February 25 to April 11. It is Velázquez's only surviving picture of a female nude (a subject rare in seventeenth-century Spanish painting) although he is thought to have painted at least four others. The exhibition will illustrate the history and significance of the picture by means of photographs and paintings.

RPO's new associate conductor

Hans Vonk, the 33-year-old artistic director of the Netherlands Opera and chief conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, has been appointed associate conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for an initial period of three years.

Seven for north-east

Seven national companies will be visiting the north-east this spring under the Arts Council's touring scheme. Theatres to be visited are the Royal Newcastle (Actors' Company, Royal Ballet, New Shakespeare Company, Scottish Opera), the Empire, Sunderland (Northern Dance Theatre, Scottish Opera, English National Opera), Darlington Civic (Scottish Opera), and the University Theatre, Newcastle, and Forum, Billingham (English Music Theatre). This will be the newly formed English Music Theatre's first tour, which will include the first performance of Stephen Oliver's new work, *Tom Jones*, on April 17.

Coming shortly

The Bristol Old Vic production of *Old Times*, E. A. Whithead's fourth play, to be presented in London, will open at the Arts Theatre on February 19. A modern play of sexual manners, an intimate supper on his girlfriend's houseboat becomes an exciting and macabre dinner party for Edward when several unexpected guests arrive. The play is directed by Jonathan Bates and the cast consists of Gary Road, Judy Cornwell, Anne Dyson, Barbara Bwing and Katherine Kelly.

remarkable Murillo. Royal Academy.



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of Arts 10 January-14 March

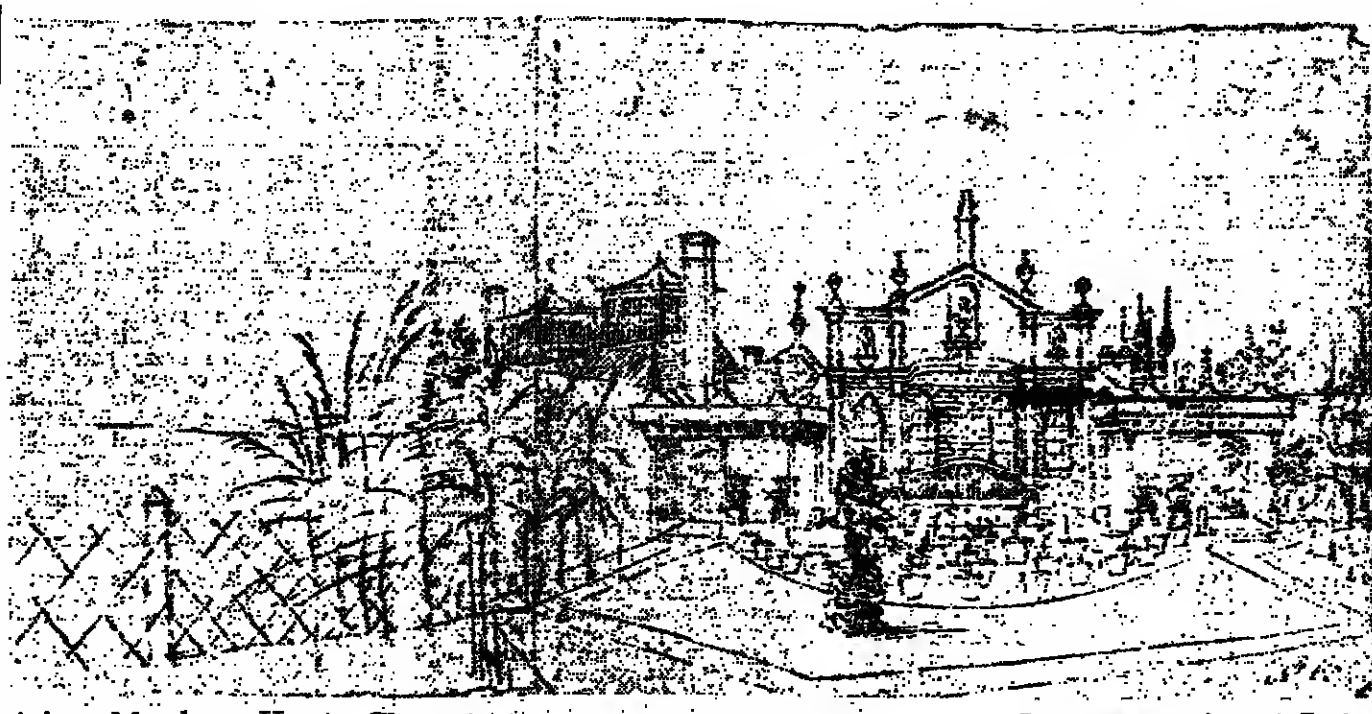
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Arbor, Marybone House, Gloucester

Thomas Robins: gardens of delight

Oscar Wilde's *Wendland Fair* may have rejoiced in the fact that she had never seen a spade, but the eighteenth-century was not so squeamish. As a delightful exhibition, appropriately entitled *Gardens of Delight*, demonstrates at the Heinz Gallery, Portman Square, until March 20. Here, a collection of the watercolours and drawings of Thomas Robins has been assembled, which provide not only an enchanting visual experience in themselves, but also constitute a unique contemporary record of a style of gardening that has survived only in its most monumental examples, such as Stowe (c.1735), Rosham (c.1737) and, especially, *Smurhead* (from c.1744).

Robins was born in 1716, at Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham, and seems to have moved to Bath about 1740, producing a drawing of the King's and Queen's Baths there in 1747, which was later engraved. A whole series of fascinating drawings illustrates the Georgian development of England's most elegant city: one, dated April 19, 1759, and taken from South Parade,

shows in the middle distance Ralph Allen's Wharf, with the railway track curving away towards his great Palladian mansion, Prior Park, and beyond to the free stone quarries that were the source of his fortune and of the city's alas, too friable, beauty. Allen died in 1765 and Robins's last view of Bath is of Bishop Warburton's Gothic monument to the man who had been a friend as well as patron for so long.

Robins's views of the great houses and gardens of the south-west begin with Charlton Park, Cheltenham, where the formal layout is still basically in the Tudor tradition, with a *parterre* in the manner of Le Notre. Louis XIV's brilliant garden designer, Benjamin Huet's house and gardens at Painswick near by are recorded in a magnificent drawing of the same year, which shows as the focal point of the garden a fantastic Gothic exedra, in contrast to the uncompromising Palladianism of the house. This drawing has a decorative border of shells and flowers rendered in exquisite detail, while a later (1759) view of Pan's Lodge on

the same estate is enclosed in a wildly extravagant Rococo Gothic framework of Chippendale-style trellis festooned with giant convolvulus, with, in the foreground, a group of young musicians serenading the god himself.

At Huet's house in Gloucester there was an amazing arboreal in a hybrid style combining Gothic, Chinese and classical elements, and Robins's drawing of it, although a perfectly straightforward record, is remarkably evocative, with its neatly arranged flower pots, comb-back Windsor chairs and, in the foreground, a riotously Baroque statue apparently inscribed "Nassos" and therefore presumably representing either Hercules battling with the centaur Nessos, or the latter carrying off Dejanira: in fact the creature seems to have wings and, were it not for the inscription, could well be Pegasus.

In many of the drawings there are gardeners and milkmaids actually at work, as well as fashionably dressed landowners and their families disporting themselves: a view of the pink-walled orangery at

By courtesy of the Courtauld Trustees

Woodside, Richard Bateman's house at Old Windsor, is peopled by an aproned gardener carefully carrying a precious plant in a pot as well as a very grand lady in a hooped skirt and a flax straw hat clenching two supercilious lap-dogs. Not all the drawings are of specific places, and the extraordinary *Gateway* containing a gate made up of rakes and pitchforks and surmounted by an owl perched on the keystone of the arch in an open niche flanked by consoles would make a perfect backdrop for *La Fille mal gardée*. Since the exhibition opened in December, several new drawings have come to light, including three in the British Museum formerly attributed to Thomas Logan, and a fan in a private collection bearing a representation of Ralph Allen's stone quarry at Prior Park, a nice illustration of the Age of Reason's concern never to lose sight of the essentials, even on something so fragile and ephemeral as a fan.

Jeffery Daniels

An East End fighter's rise and fall

Johnny Boxer Half Moon

Irving Wardle

Given its subject and setting, Phil Woods's play strikes me as a good chance thrown away. Its theme is the rise and fall of an East End fighter during the 1930s; not a big-name contender, but one of the army of hungry men who managed briefly to punch his way into comfort and status before winding up on the scrapheap before the age of 30.

All this is a foregone conclusion from the first sight of Johnny turning up at the gym and being taken on by a Jewish manager who spots his promise. We know he is going to win one important fight, and then go to pieces. The interest lies not in what happens but how it happens; and the Half Moon setting, a realistic ring with gym routines going on in the foreground, encourages expectation that this is how the piece will develop. It was presumably that hope which drew a good number of well known fighters to Tuesday's show, with the boxing correspondent of the *Evening News* who introduced them before Johnny's two-round knockout.

Ring detail apart, however, there is not much to be gleaned from the piece, which settles for B-movie suspense, with Johnny's wife taking an overdose before his big fight (why is never explained), an unbelievable high-life liaison with a ladylike columnist, and the final spectacle of the pathetic has-been drifting back to the gym looking for work as a trainer.

There is vague talk about corruption, but as Johnny from the start cultivated a big mouth and an obsession with money, it is far from clear whether Mr Woods is laying the blame on him or on the system. Nor is the system illuminated by the surrounding boxing types, who may emphasize the point that this is an environment where skill, crime, social work and glamour meet, but do nothing to show how these elements hang together to establish human contact.

Given the quality of Billy Colville's fiery leatherweight and Alan Davila as his manager (a small portly figure who proves a skinning virtuoso), that is a pity. Their scenes supply a glimpse of what the play might have been. But Pam Brighton's production accepts it at its sprawling length, including a series of redundant linking monologues, and seeks to supply the missing social dimension with slides of bumpy faces on the back wall accompanied by songs of the time. The show has some animation and some truth, but it is well below her usual standard.

Hallé's Herculean labours in Hongkong

Hong Kong was all paper lanterns, coloured lights and brightly illuminated signs proclaiming "Kung Hei Fat Choy", which is Cantonese for Happy New Year, when I emerged from Kaitak airport on the first of this month to attend the fourth Hong Kong Arts Festival. China's lunar year, this time the propitious Year of the Dragon, had just begun, in Hong Kong a four-day public holiday.

Bang in the middle of it the festival was due to start—bang not quite the most festive since the traditional fireworks are prohibited these days, alas! The opening event of the festival, the Grenadier Guards (five of the Dragoon, had just begun, in Hong Kong a four-day public holiday).

Then came the most striking confrontation. Into the square at top speed whirled the year's own dragon, its immensely long, brilliant body and monstrous, horrible head supported by some two-dozen fleet-footed boys (memories of Hoffmann's *Faust*!). It halted at the steps in front of City Hall, and Sir Murray McLachlan, the Governor of Hong Kong, symbolically brought the beast to life by touching its eyes and tongue with a magic wand, whereupon it perked up and skidded away, while the rest of us, those who had tickets, went to hear the Hallé Orchestra give the first concert of the festival.

European residents used to regard the colony as a cultural desert unless they made common cause with the age-old and thriving Chinese artistic activity. As the aeroplane increasingly shrunk the world, musicians and other representatives of Western arts likewise stopped in Hong Kong more frequently. The City Hall was built, with two auditoria, one for symphony concerts, the other for theatre and chamber music. Next year the new Arts Centre will be open, with further halls for artistic events.

In the middle of this cultural crescendo Hong Kong decided to mount an arts festival and turned to Ian Hunter, Britain's festivalmaker-in-chief. Hunter brought to Hong Kong an annual orgy of the world's outstanding artists in music, theatre, dance. Now he has handed over the artistic direction to Anthony Chardet of Chichester Festival Theatre, and Hong Kong Festival's policy is discreetly moving away from the international supermarket concept towards one where, like Hong Kong itself, east meets west and in which

the major artistic events will be culled as much from the east as from Europe and America.

For the European residents of Hong Kong the attraction of this festival is still the visit of the Hallé Orchestra, the Chichester Theatre, and John Field's assembly of ballet stars, together with Evelyn Williams as Charles Dickens, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, and from elsewhere in Europe the Swiss *Alpenmusik* mime company and *Paco Peña's* flamenco troupe. Already this Hong Kong Festival has proved commercially the most successful to date. Practically everything is sold out, and on the first night the Governor announced that from now on the Government will substantially subsidize the festival, it is said to the extent of 25 per cent of the budget.

The Hallé Orchestra has shouldered a Herculean labour by giving 11 concerts in two weeks, its own conductor James Loughran being assisted by Meredith Davies and Edwin Arwel Hughes. Programmes are, by British festival standards, conventional, Rachmaninov the most prominent composer. Several British works were included, properly, though Walton was the only living composer represented.

The first concert amply demonstrated the dramatic improvement in fire and precision of varied stylistic accomplishment that Loughran has imposed on the Hallé since he took over after - Barbirolli's death. With his readings of Dvořák's *New World*, Rachmaninov's second, and Brahms's first symphonies, played with freshness and splendour, he established his authority as an interpreter of stature. I admired his best accompaniment to Stoklasa's *Milvianova's* gracious account of Beethoven's violin concerto, even more his sterling support of the powerful and enthusiastic interpretation by Moura Lympany of Rachmaninov's third piano concerto. The other soloist in these concerts was Peter Katin whose imperious exposition of the great Brahms B flat piano concerto duly impressed Hongkong.

This year's musical programmes prompt two questions. Does the Hong Kong Festival intend to be international only in the selection of performers, or also in the audiences it attracts? An international audience will want, surely, a more *recherché* repertoire, and then, granted that older people in Hong Kong pine for live performances of standard symphonic favourites, should not this festival be attracting young audiences by introducing the most tasteful and inventive rock groups and specialists in contemporary classical music?

Mr Chardet is as keen to broaden the festival's repertoire as its scope, but his first duty has been to make it commercially viable. It may be three or four years before he works his way to the sort of Hong Kong Festival that he ideally envisages.

William Mann

LPO/Solti Festival Hall

Stephen Walsh

Solti began his series of six February and March concerts with the LPO on Tuesday with a programme devoted to Bartok. A defiant enough start, but the punch was slightly pulled, the three works being entirely Bartok's last and stylistically least difficult phase. It was also a fine start, with much penetrating insight and some brilliant playing. Last Friday Boulez showed us how lucid and unimpeded the early romantic Bartok of *Bluebeard* really is. It was fascinating now to find Solti insisting on the essential vigour and pugnacity of the late romantic Bartok. His attack at the start of the *Divertimento* was supremely wrestling and forthright, and perfectly in keeping with the markings, though one wonders how the composer would have reacted to a complement of 60 string players in this work written for the Eszterházy Orchestra (the score pleads for a minimum of 22 players). The main requirement, of course, is a strong, clean line, and this the LPO achieved admirably.

As You Like It Young Vic

Ned Chaillet

Alan Barlow's single set, which broods over the entire performance of the Young Vic's *As You Like It*, suggests many things, but not the idyllic forest of Arden. Its torn, patchy cloth, dripping like so much ragged laundry above the stage, could be the torn parachutes of a jungle war and would perfectly accommodate Peter Gyn's trolls, but it cloisters Shakespeare's comedy.

The Victorian costumes, also by Mr Barlow, would well suit a Dickens novel, or, perhaps more aptly, something new by Lewis Carroll, as the classic "motley clown" Touchstone is presented as the Mad Hatter and given store-bought tricks to perform. Others are garbed as Van Gogh rustics: Audrey, the lusty weech who seduces Touchstone, again suggests Peter Gyn and in her dress could well come from a kingdom of pigs. Duke Frederick's military court is a military regime, and Rosalind's main costume is a knickerbocker suit. There should be enough humour left in Shakespeare's

comedies to protect them from the outrages of fashion and to keep the audience happy however the director chooses to dress his actors. But Alfred Lynch's production is so tricked out, and yet so serious in its search for a personal style, that pitifully few of the laughs survive.

The myriad of ideas suggested by the costume could well be misleading, and surely in some ways must be misleading because the ideas contradict themselves. If Touchstone is seen as a Mad Hatter, perhaps Rosalind and Celia's flight into the forest is Alice's flight into Wonderland, and not a banishment. But they are banished, and Rosalind's father, the banished duke, has set up his court in the forest, so perhaps Duke Frederick's military court is a military regime, and the banished duke is farming a guerrilla resistance.

Such ideas have their place in Shakespeare, but as directorial statements, not as questions posed by the costume. And they may not really exist as ideas in this production, for they would help explain why the play is so odd, and, though the notion of the Young Vic company is not incommensurable, it is entirely inconspicuous here.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Ronald Butt

Is there a political future for the Liberals?

It is a sad business that unsubstantiated allegations concerning Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, made in circumstances that would be regarded by any reasonable person as a moral abuse of the privilege of the law courts, should command more column inches in the newspapers and more time on television than any policy statement or any political action they could take. Nevertheless, there is a political lesson in this, quite apart from the question what precise right the public has—and it has a right of some sort—to be concerned with the private lives of politicians.

The lesson is that public interest in the Liberal Party now extends very little beyond the personalities of its leading figures, some of whom undeniably have a certain flamboyant ability for attracting attention. It is as though the Liberals have only half the characteristics of a properly integrated political party—and on the whole, the less important half.

All politics concerns, and always has legitimately concerned, personalities as well as policies. But personality politics is a pretty empty business without real policy implications behind it. What gave the Conservatives' change from Mr. Heath to Mrs. Thatcher real importance was that it was not simply a matter of personalities but of a substantial and important modulation of political attitudes in the party which was wholly relevant to the basic political questions of the day.

The state of the Liberal Party is very different. As the political questions facing the social and

economic life of the country have clarified, the essential argument can be seen to be concentrated in, and expressed by, the two main parties. The Liberal contribution is now more marginal than ever. The importance of the Liberal Party as a vehicle which voters discontented with both other parties can board at election time has been a real one in recent elections and could become so again. But since this function is very much greater when the Conservatives are in power than when Labour is, it is hard to believe that the Liberals could have any such significance in the next election, whenever it is.

The situation has been transformed since 1974. In Scotland, the Nationalists have shot the Liberals' fox and threaten to become not only the third party in that part of Britain but also established as the third, and even conceivably the balancing party, at Westminster. In England, the disaffected Tories who temporarily went Liberal in 1974, because they feared that government by Mr. Heath meant perpetuating a dangerous state of conflict with the unions, have paid a devastating price for their rebellion in terms of the impact of socialist government on their lives. Next time, they will wing their way back to Mrs. Thatcher with the instinct of homing pigeons.

The active Liberal Party, whether in its parliamentary form or in the rather different and more curious turnout that usually appears at the annual Liberal assembly, has to be differentiated from liberal voters much more than it appears to be.

Conservatives. It commands no widespread natural allegiance, and the Liberal Party's boast that it is free of interest groups, as its bigger rivals are not, is a source of weakness rather than strength—not least financially. The other parties, it is true, have been feeling the financial pinch (especially the Conservatives, though there is now an improvement for them). Mr. Wilson suffers vague and improbable financial threats from Mr. Sid Weighell that the railwayman will cut off financial help for Labour if Labour cuts the railways. Yet all this is nothing compared to the Liberals' financial plight.

The Liberals' ancient coeque Rowntree Trust, its biggest single backer, has cut to virtually nothing the financial help on which the Liberal Party has depended for 50 years. It has taken away its annual grant of £25,000 and only in response to the Liberals' plea not to humiliate them by removing everything, is Rowntree keeping on a derisory £1,000 grant this year. Perhaps still worse, the Liberals will no longer, it seems, have financial support from Rowntree at election times: this was worth £25,000 to them in 1974.

Nor has the flicker of financial interest which Mr. Thorpe managed to raise in some parts of the City after the last election, endured.

The Rowntree decision reflects both discontent with the Liberals' ramshackle party organization (whose deficiencies the Liberals have admitted) but even more a conviction that financing the Liberals is throw-

ing good money after bad in terms of effective politics. The Trust has therefore decided to put its money into arrangements of its own for studying social and political questions, on the grounds that giving it to the Liberals was achieving little. Why should this be so?

To answer this question one must first ask what the Liberals have to offer that is really different. "The basic principle of Liberalism is concern for the individual," said the Liberal manifesto in October, 1974. But what is the Conservative message under Mrs. Thatcher if it is not just this? The emerging Conservative theme is the need to restore responsibility to the individual from the state: it is an old one, but it is being stated with more conviction than ever before precisely because the accumulated conservatism of the present Labour Party is polarizing the issue in this way. Where, then, do the Liberals come in?

"We seek to redistribute so that all may own and so that one may be impoverished," said the Liberal manifesto. It is an impeccable statement of Conservative principles under Mrs. Thatcher which are increasingly turning to the idea of redistributing ownership to individuals. Worker participation in industry is also increasingly accepted as a Tory theme. As for the big social questions—the role of the individual in relation to collective and social services—the Liberals have little that is destructive to say—except (oo the basis of the last manifesto) to argue that the only way to save the National Health Service is by a massive injection of

capital. But where from? Do the Liberals really have a heart for bringing individualism back into welfare and education?

The one wholly distinctive Liberal contribution to argument over national policy is its consistent attachment to a statutory incomes policy at a time when this has been discarded by the other parties as unworkable. This concept is not only the foundation of the Liberal economic platform but is, indeed, at the heart of the Liberal tradition of freedom from state control. The Liberals are, in fact, perched with one leg in the camp of individualism and the other, planted with almost socialist fervour, in the camp of collectivism.

Of course, all politics is a matter of synthesizing opposites. But the Liberal synthesis looks a great deal less convincing just now than the right-wing synthesis offered by the Tories or the left-wing synthesis offered by Labour.

On top of all this now come the Liberal party's problems in respect of its leader. In one case, the financial, he has admitted a lack of judgement in the more personal one, it has to be said that both the leader and the party have been expected to deal with the unanswered questions less clumsily. The spectacle of the Liberal Party grilling its leader before endorsing him was hardly life-enhancing. If the Liberals are to have a chance of winning the next election, they must have the strongest cards in their suit both under Mr. Grimond and Mr. Thorpe, what will the electorate think they have left to offer?

Softly, softly is the new approach to devolution

What chance is there of the devolution debate being raised above the party political battle? The word consensus now rolls easily from ministerial lips and there is no doubt that the Government is eager to obtain a broad measure of agreement between the parties. The need is obvious. The White Paper was badly received in Scotland and Wales, and mauling in Parliament. After the four-day debate in the Commons last month there can be no assurance that a Bill based on those proposals would be passed.

So there is the prospect of such chaos at Westminster that many moderate Scots would be disgusted and disillusioned. That is why the cause of consensus was pleaded by peers of all political persuasions in the Lords debate on the White Paper, and why Lord Home toadies with Lord Perth proposed in a letter to *The Times* last Friday that a Speaker's conference should be called to settle outstanding points of difference.

There is no prospect of the Government proposing anything so far as this state, partly because they fear further delay and partly because they know they will have to feel their way very carefully. A public offer of discussions that was publicly refused would set back the cause of inter-party agreement quite a bit. So no dramatic initiatives are being prepared. There have not been quiet approaches through usual channels. Ministers can be expected to move delicately, tentatively and until they can feel that there is some response from the other parties.

Will there be? From the Liberals almost certainly yes. They have for some time been advocating inter-party talks, though not in a form that would seem likely to win the Government's ready approval. The Liberals want a constitutional convention which would be a gathering of Scottish politicians together with representatives of the leading Scottish institutions. There would be the objection that this too would delay the process and there could be no assurance that a scheme worked out by Scottish politicians would win approval at Westminster.

But the readiness for inter-party talks matters more at this stage than the form. The Liberals would have everything to gain and little to lose because they have a strong interest in getting a devolution Bill on the statute book before the next general election. The stronger the SNP, the more Scottish Liberal seats would be in danger.

But it is the response of the Conservatives that really matters. There is a wide range of opinion within the Shadow Cabinet and the parliamentary party both on the substance of devolution and on how the issue should be handled. There are a number of Shadow Ministers who are convinced that devolution is necessary and that there should be the maximum degree of bipartisanship in order to keep the United Kingdom together. To them this is too critical a question for the pursuit of party advantage.

There are others who agree that the national interest should come first but are more sceptical about devolution or overtures from the present Government. If they could be sure that any approaches that might be made were a genuine attempt to develop a bipartisan policy they would be more inclined to respond favourably, but they are wary of being invited simply to ease the Government through a parliamentary embarrassment.

There are yet other Shadow Ministers who do not accept the need for devolution, believing that the United Kingdom

would not be in jeopardy. Nationalists were more directly. On this, the situation has changed. The official response Labour and Conservative have been "no, too, but so much".

Within the party, but not so far as tell within the Shadow there is another opinion which attaches importance to press United Kingdom. I want to say that it is this line of argument, at the cost of missing government, that we do want—and if they do will leave the Conservative the natural governing England. "No concessions the device on that base."

There is not the same political imperative. Conservatives as the Labour and the Liberal some Conservatives with the need for devolution grounds of national belief that the next of the SNP will be a pension of Labour, which Conservatives view as their ground and a lack of honest dealing some support for them in the recent regional election results. That account of the broad considerations of how a future devolutionary government could be a minority of MPs were national less of what would be the SNP held the balance power at Westminster, not always in the hands of parties to let her ahead.

There is also a few quarters that the men's difficulties over time could provide a chance of ejecting the Conservative from the White House. That is so, but a substantial section of the Conservative Party in the more particularly country, is in no mood what is thought to be a country going against a Conservative government. A sense of parliamentary mistic seem to believe only the party fought it would be able to get the Government quick to change the climate—for those set bipartisanship approach national interest.

That would probably only if there strong lead from the Thatcher gives the impression of being personally sympathetic to the devolution but of being the political realities of land. She has publicly the commitment to a elected assembly. Mr. the official spokeswoman, is certainly a But he is also by no means to appeals national interest. His is against turning this the usual party politics.

Unfortunately, what an informal overture Short along those lines time ago he met with what haughty reaction number of Shadow Ministers are disinclined to take to the Government on the issue of devolution. Mr. the Minister in charge.

The best calculation stage is that there will formal talks of some kind yielding agreement on points of detail, a determining view by the decision and getting rule police veto proposed White Paper. The political decisions do not yet anything more than it would none the less getting some sort of going, no matter how the beginning of the starting a process the develop into something.

Geoffrey

Defence: The tender trap in Nato standardization

When the Nato defence ministers agreed to set up a European Defence Procurement Secretariat at a meeting at The Hague it was more an occasion for comment that such a group was being established 26 years after Nato came into being rather than a cause of immediate rejoicing. There can be few cases in the whole realm of defence affairs that are more generally accepted in theory and less widely accepted in practice than the case for standardization of military equipment.

Of necessity, all inter-governmental agreements, whether in the EEC or Nato, involve lengthy negotiations and quite crude horse trading. The real danger to the standardization debate is that there is as yet no agreement as to when standardization should begin. On September 24, 1975 the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Government in which it was intended to purchase the American submarine Harpoon missile "if the terms are right" and then, to give itself maximum room for a tough negotiating position, proceeded to cancel the British competitive project. Just to make certain that we had got that point, the British Government announced at the same time, a separate "deal" whereby we bought the Franco-German Milan anti-tank missile and they bought nothing from us.

This problem goes far beyond competitive claims of one weapon system against another. We are concerned with supporting British industry and maintaining British technological expertise as the basis of future innovation and export earnings, in the absence of any Nato agreement to standardize.

The major challenge comes not from French perversity in

search of a fast franc or from British misanthropy but from American industry. The Americans have shown no sign of coming to grips with this fundamental ambivalence in their attitude to Nato. The lamented Mr. Schlesinger spoke of a "two-way street" in arms sales, but the United States attitude to foreign products is decidedly frosty. Their idea of standardization is to standardize on them. The rolling might of United States industry with the Pentagon paying the small American to behold. Sometimes the customary American will to succeed takes on an added urgency when the very survival of a project in the United States is at stake. Executives of the Boeing Corporation are now intensifying their efforts to confirm orders for a plane known as AWACS which stands for Airborne Warning and Control Systems. This aircraft, which is a converted Boeing 707 crammed with advanced radar equipment, is needed to track high-speed level enemy aircraft in Europe. It is quite clearly going to be the most expensive aircraft ever produced and although cost estimates vary a fairly firm figure to the British taxpayer is £33m per plane—and this for a plane which is not particularly suited to British needs.

There is another reason for this aggressive American sales campaign. Many countries outside Nato have expressed keen interest in ordering an airborne early warning system but if Nato goes for AWACS it will remove the only competitor, the British AEW system being produced by Hawker Siddeley and Marconi Elliott. Some American salesmen attempt to brush aside the British system, which will admittedly be available two years later than AWACS but which is tailored for United Kingdom maritime

surveillance requirements and will cost £20m a plane including full research and development costs. This cost more than money spent within this country supporting our own technology.

A recent document from the EEC Commission urges the European aerospace industry to unite in the civil and military fields in order to counter American competition, but at the first whiff of collaborative noises in the military sphere the Americans are quick to point out that they are Nato members and France is not. As long as France stays out of Nato and Eurogroup, there is little hope of improvement, but it is just possible that France's chaste experience when she lost out to the United States on the fourth and military replacement may bring her into line. Until that happens, the United States will continue with its "divide and rule" tactics and also with its most beguiling approach to the British Government which is to offer substantial savings by ordering a ready-made American system in preference to expensive British research and development.

This poisoned chalice offers short-term savings for us but the price is the dismantling of our technological capability. For a nation which has to live on what it can design and produce, we should not take such decisions so lightly. By ordering the American submarine Harpoon missile, we throw away all our own expertise in underwater guided missiles. It is true that there will be work for our factories for some time and the Americans will allow us to make items to their design but the real cost to Britain of "standardization" will be seen in a few years time when we have little defence design capability to offer. If Roy Mason decides to crowd his year as chairman of Eurogroup by ordering AWACS for Nato in the cause of "standardization", he will have done more damage to our defence industries than the Luftwaffe ever achieved.

Geoffrey Pattie

The author is Conservative MP for Chertsey and Walton.

The official silence surrounding Iran's 'political prisoners'

Iran is a country where "political prisoners" abound. The Shahanshah and his regime release information in avalanches about the total number and estimates range from 25,000 to 100,000. Whatever the true figure—and on any view it is a staggering number—trial and sentencing have aroused international concern for some years. The death penalty is not uncommon, and torture and summary execution have been alleged and in some cases proved. International missions in recent years have set out to Tehran to try to make inquiries, but all have met a similar response—official silence. The Shah is only too pleased to play host to international human rights conferences, sponsor "progressive" human rights organisations and give strong verbal support to the Principles Declaration of Human Rights; when it comes to examination of his own regime, official non-cooperation is the rule.

The announcement of the execution of nine alleged guerrillas on January 24 adds to the list of those known to have suffered a similar fate. No one is permitted to know what "evidence" was used, and the public is no longer permitted to watch the trial. Unlike some, however, these people at least know their execution had been ordered. Others, notably the nine political prisoners summarily executed in early 1975, were simply shot in the back, trying to escape from prison. No one has ever been permitted to see their bodies or post-mortem reports.

We visited Tehran in August 1975 on behalf of the British Parliamentary Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Iran, to investigate rumours and allegations of ill-treatment of political prisoners and to try to gain interviews with certain prisoners whose names we had. Like other similar missions we found out at first hand just how accurate the regime is.

It is possible, however, from such information as we and others have been able to glean, to reconstruct the probable experiences of the nine latest victims.

Arrest would have been carried out by Savak, the local political police, and would have been followed by a period of detention during which the accused would have been under investigation by Savak and lawyers would not have been permitted to visit.

Pre-trial detention would have been in one of the country's political prisons—possibly the notorious "Commissariat" prison housed in a building from the "taster"—a building capable of being heated electrically to white heat—to devices for inflicting electric shocks to the genital organs. If these methods failed it is even possible that close members of the families would have been detained and tortured in front of them as an added inducement to provide information.

About 10 days before the day appointed for their trial they would have had the opportunity to meet those who were to defend them. These defenders would not have been members of the country's legal profession—but serving or retired army officers approved by the regime. At the trial the judges would have been senior army officers. The prosecution case would be presented in written form—the Savak file would have been read out. The only verbal evidence would have been the defendants', no other defence witnesses being permitted.

Defence tactics have to depend to an extent on the evidence. Quite likely Savak would have claimed to have extracted confessions, which may have been contested or stated to have been obtained by torture. It may be that a simple plea for mercy was entered.

It is worth noting that defence officers have themselves fallen foul of the authorities in the past and been accused, tried and convicted as a result of their endeavours on behalf of their clients. The

court itself would have been under pressure to impose the death penalty.

The military tribunal and appeal would have been held in secret. The local press, which has been censored would have been able to print the information provided by the regime.

It is also interesting to note that in our researches, both before and during our visit to Tehran, we have not learned of any acquittals after trial by military tribunal. There was a time when the tribunals were open to the public—indeed the trial of some of the nine, who were summarily executed a year ago, was witnessed by a number of foreign observers. It is from previous international observers that some substantiation of torture allegations has been obtained—observers having seen the injuries imposed.

Alas, side by side with the growing importance of Iran in world economic affairs, and the Shah's public statements in support of principles of basic human rights, his regime at home gets, if anything, more repressive. No longer are the military tribunals open to observers. Even the pretence of political opposition being permitted has been ended (the only legal political party is the Rastakhiz, or resurgence party) and Savak continues its activities on a considerable scale.

The lack of official information can only serve to increase speculation as to what actually goes on. That this speculation is based on fact there is no doubt; that it is widely based is no doubt. Iran, we can testify, it is to be greatly regretted that, unlike in countries of lesser economic importance, such as Spain, the regular use of the death penalty is a little international indignation and even less international action. Meanwhile, Iran remains perhaps the worst country in the world in which to fall foul of the regime.

John Watkinson and Bill Nash

Mr Watkinson is Labour MP for Gloucester West. Mr Nash is a solicitor.

GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Cry out for Aid

20 massive earth tremors have left much of Guatemala City and several provincial towns lying in ruins. Hundreds of bodies have been retrieved by rescue teams from the rubble strewn streets. So many children and their families are homeless and face a terrifying shortage of drinking water and food.

Hospitals, The Salvation Army and the Catholic Relief Services (who are on the spot) are working around the clock, but without funds they just can't cope with disaster on such a tragic scale.

Your money is needed desperately, to help provide vital supplies of medicine, emergency shelters, food and clothes.

£5 provides milk and milk powder for a family.

£10 provides nutritious food supplements.

£30 provides blankets for a group of children.

PLEASE — GIVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN — YOUR MONEY WILL BE SENT IN FULL — WITH NO DEDUCTIONS FOR EXPENSES OF ANY KIND

Please send today to:

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The Times Diary

How to buff up your precious plate

Elizabeth Vowles, of Whaddon, Gloucester (they seem to have a lot of silver in Gloucestershire), thinks Goddards' new polishes are not a patch on the old method, and B. E. Lunn, of Hordham, Sussex, thinks that the new polishes, including those made by Goddards, tend to wear the plate off silver plate much more quickly than the old ones.

P. Barker, of Wembley, finds Goddards' Long Term Silver Foam just as good, but it has the disadvantage of being evil-smelling, he says. Numerous other readers said that Goddards should bring the plate powder back again. The firm, which is now owned by Johnsons Wax, has said it would consider bringing it back if they were convinced there was sufficient demand. There seems to be.

It seemed a good idea to consult a silver-cleaning expert, and Mr Bingham of Garrard, the Crown Jewellers, generously revealed his firm's method: take a chamois leather, dip it in water, then jeweller's rouge, then whiteners and polish. Finally buff up the silver with a clean dry leather. Anyone really interested, he said, was welcome to visit the firm's Regent Street shop any morning to see it being done professionally.

Fofoaly, one reader has been able to tell me where plate powder can still be bought: it

is at Goddards' South African office on the corner of Gordon Avenue and Jan Smuts Avenue, Blairgowrie, Transvaal. Book your seats now.

Stranded

The people who help the homeless do not get many calls for help from luxury flats in Park Lane. But Audrey Harvey, who works with Shelter, has just taken up the case of a woman stranded in a flat costing £300 a week who fears that she may not be able to get a council flat when she leaves.

The woman in distress is a housekeeper whose employer no longer affords the rent. Her difficulty is that to be considered for a council flat she will have to be evicted by court order. But if she stays on in the flat after her employer leaves she can be charged "mesne profits" until she is evicted. Mesne profits are the letting value of the house or flat, less the rent offered by the landlord, who would presumably insist on the full rent of £300 a week.

Mrs Harvey says her client has already lost five housekeeping jobs because her employers have moved to smaller accommodation and not taken her with them. But even if she does stay on in the flat until she is evicted she is by no means certain of getting any kind of offer from the council.

The Department of the Environment is at last taking

the injustice of mesne profits against service occupiers seriously," she says. "They are chiefly dealing with it in connection with the abolition of agricultural tied cottages, but they realize now that they will have to take all other people into account as well."

Comeback

Whatever became of all those tall-in-the-saddle television Westerns like *Bonanza* and *Gunslinger*? Herbert S. Schlosser has a theory that we have all become so urbanized that the policeman has ousted the cowboy. And Schlosser should know since he is president of the National Broadcasting Company, here this week to give a lecture for the BBC today.

Schlosser is a quiet American who vigorously defends its critics while conceding that the British may have the edge in drama "otherwise," he said, over a lunch for television writers. "I would say we stack up pretty well, quite honestly," The Americans do, after all, have much more diversity, with seven channels in many cities, and far more viewing hours to fill.

He thinks, incidentally, that the Western may return in a reduced way. Police shows, the "urban Westerns," are about at their peak. Who loves you, Kojak?

Carrying on

Not everyone is galvanized into instant sentimentality by the name of Lorna Luft, but like the better-known Liz Minnelli, she is Judy Garland's daughter.

"People come to see Judy



Garland's daughter: I just hope she goes away living Lorna Luft," she said at the London Palladium yesterday. She is about to star in a two-week show, in which she sings and dances. "I only sing one of her songs. You made me love you. If I attempted *Over the Rainbow* I guess I would be very severely criticized."

A reporter from *Gay News* said afterwards: "Gays have an undying interest in the Gar-

land family. I think myself, but they like marriage breakdown. They want a husband and Lorna could be with them too."

Riposte

Faced with the success of a newspaper in producing a British and selling it among Indians in this country, the Indian press publishes English newspapers in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, is considering a weekly edition in London for Indian immigrants, and is helping Mrs. C. K. Raju to start a new paper.

Choru Karadia, a Asian who works as a sub on *The Guardian*, has approached to edit the edition, and will try to tie the end of the month to the proprietor's paper style of the *Guardian*, mostly reprinted from Indian editions, but with pages of local British news. The Indian community in London yesterday said she was here were being with only a few of the poorly-produced journals.

A pro-Concorde letter, the *Washington Star*, says a couple of young men regularly race on motor around where I live. It will be interesting to find out whether the Concorde flies over the motorways, or if the motorways will be down the streets to hear the airplane.

P



ending the by the negative evidence that inevitable part

THE PROFITLESS WEEKS

ON DOCTORS SHOULD ACCEPT

tions suggest that the evidential value of testimony extracted under torture was really much poorer than the one which the slaves were likely to have information vital to a court was concerning his own master's wrong-doings.

The impression is strengthened by the writings of the Christian orators of the Middle Ages that there are many instances of challenges offering or demanding slaves for torture, but none of such a challenge being accepted and carried through. The torture of slaves was therefore not a mode of trial, but an alternative method of trial; and the frequently repeated opinion that slaves invariably told the truth under torture referred not to the testimony but to the judgment pronounced by this method. It was a matter of etiquette to assume that slaves told the truth, comparable to the assumption that the jury is always right.

No doubt, in the course of time, torture was increasingly used as a mode of examination, but this was a secondary development. A later evolution occurred in the twelfth century, when the reintroduction of torture followed the banning of the older ordeals by Innocent III and the Emperor Frederick II. In many cases the methods were the same, only the purpose different. The ordeal sought to determine the judgment of God; torture to procure a confession.

Yours faithfully,
MALISE RUTHVEN,
62 Stockwell Park Road, SW9.

There will always be a measure of corruption, some of which will be uncovered and some not. The absolute element is that society must not seem to condone corruption in any form, for it is a constant state of mind, and must improve standards. The steady improvement of standards of conduct in relation to financial affairs in this country over the decades is evidence of how the process can work. So far as our commercial and business community is concerned, the requirement is that corrupt practices into which it may be drawn, outside of the world, as part effectively of its "promotional" expenditure, should not carry over into the business life of this country. There have been recent cases involving companies with an international trading character, where there was a danger of this happening and they must be resisted. This is a further reason why thought should be given to the establishment of a standing tribunal on corruption charges, with the investigation of current practices and the protection of the public interest.

calculated that it might be to their advantage to hold an election quickly, before their opponents both inside and outside the Christian Democrat party gained any more ground. It seems however that more moderate counsels have prevailed. Signor Moro is to remain in office, at the head of a government impoverished by the departure of the Republicans—who had provided some of his most talented ministers—and benefiting from the abstention of the Socialists instead of their positive votes. In other words it will be a weak government even by Italian standards. But at least it can get on with handling the most pressing economic problems, and at least it will enable the general election to be held off until after the Christian Democrats have held their congress. Whether held this year or next, this general election will probably be the most decisive since 1948, and it is desirable that the various parties make their positions as clear as possible before the electorate is called on to choose between them.

reaction was suspicion of a more abstract point. In their concern to link pay more closely to hours they have long tried to establish that basic pay rewards only the basic forty hours a week. The review body always resists this: extra hours do earn extra pay, but in assessing basic salaries it also takes some account of the general work burden. Perhaps rather tactlessly, it remarks in the new report that if it ever accepted the doctors' argument, basic pay would drop as the supplements went up.

This hypothetical point should not determine the fate of the package. In fact it is in nobody's interests that pay should simply reflect hours: it would make the fluctuations more abrupt, increase disparities between specialties and encourage unprofessional attitudes. Overlong hours should not be seen as a perk, nor as a necessary ordeal of professional initiation, but as a failure of organization. They are more to blame than pay for last year's discounts. Intelligent planning and cooperation between disciplines have already brought some improvement. The joint study that Mrs Castle has promised offers the profession better means of achieving more than any manipulation of overtime rates is likely to.

National Dried Milk
From Dr J. D. Baum
Sir: It is most regrettable that Mr Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, should have caused National Dried Milk without forwarding paediatricians and health visitors of his intention to do so. It is doubly regrettable that following his statement the press should have alleged an association between National Dried Milk and "cot deaths".

"Cot deaths" almost certainly represent a multitude of disorders; "cot deaths" occur throughout the world and are not simply the result of using one milk powder instead of another; unfortunately "cot deaths" even occur in babies who have been breast fed from birth.

The widely publicized but unfounded link between National Dried Milk and "cot deaths" has caused alarm and I hope that the Department of Health and Social Security will make a statement denying such an association.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. BAUM, Clinical Reader in Paediatrics,
John Radcliffe Hospital,
Headington, Oxford.
February 6.

From Mr Winston S. Churchill delay before rain

There can be no doubt that the presence of this massive army of mercenaries has been responsible for bloodshed on a horrifying scale among the civilian population of Angola, and that this extension of Soviet imperialism constitutes a grave threat to the security of the Cape route, the stability of Southern Africa and to the moderate regimes of Zaire and Zambia. How much longer will the British Government

From Mr R. Edwards
Sir, Mercenaries, non-conscripted
and well paid, who elect to fight and
kill—does the death of a few of their
number merit extensive headline
coverage and parliamentary debate?
Yours faithfully,
R. EDWARDS,
31, Hawthorn Close,
New Loighton,
Near Preston, Lancashire.

My proposal stems from the apparent intractability of the whole subject when viewed through departmental spectacles. (Lord Cranborne-Hunt spoke in the Lords debate on the growing polarization of views.) Before Ministers make an irrevocable decision, would the government ask its Central Policy Review Staff to study and report quickly on this thorny question? Such a study would form a relevant addendum to its present review of Britain's interests overseas and how these should be protected and enhanced.

Yours, etc.

MARTIN KENYON,
14 Denbigh Street, S.W.1,
February 10.

However, in spite of all the efforts of my MP and the Oxfordshire County Council the response from the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture has been anything but encouraging.

I have also suggested that land-owners who are in a position to fall and re-plant should be recompensed in the form of a tax rebate.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
RICHARD NORMAN,
Milton Mill, near Abingdon.

1973 to sent at £230,000 would now, according to his calculations, "probably have to be priced above £6" if reprinted in this country.

It must be pointed out, however, that a price increase of that order (140 per cent) is more than double the increase in average printing prices over that period - and also double the increase in printing charges of the firm which produced the book in 1973.

Thus the "probable" increase in selling price must be due mainly to factors other than increased printing costs.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC DIXON,
Deputy Director and Secretary,
British Printing Industries
Federation, 11 Bedford Row, W.C1.

Spanish: *Industria*

The economics of fish farming

Further, it has been calculated by Gerald Leach (*Energy and Food Production*, published by the International Institute for Environment and Development) that marine fish landed in the United Kingdom require about 20 times as much energy, as fossil fuel, to get them to the dockside as they themselves contain for human consumption. This compares with two to four times as much in the case of conventional animal products at the farm gate. It is too early to say yet how efficient the farming of grass carp might be in this respect.

The non-executive directors were entitled to assume London & County was healthy because the auditors certified the 1973 London & County results showing a profit of £2.8m as "true and fair". Had the auditors warned, as the inspectors say they should, that the 1973 profit of £2.8m was not a true profit, the non-executive directors would have been alerted and Gerald Cyprian

It is unfortunate that this letter should be timed with a resolution calling for a separate state for the Tamils because this coincidence contradicts the otherwise welcome assurance that the writers do not presume to tell the Government of Sri Lanka their business. This amounts to interference in the in-

Sir, I note that the *European Parliament* involves only part of Europe; that when economists produce statistics for Western Europe they sometimes mean the countries of the Nine and sometimes the whole of non-Communist Europe; that *The Times* distinguishes news from Western Europe from Overseas news but includes Spain under Western Europe; that HM Customs have one channel for EEC Passports and another for British Passports; that the EEC excluded Britain; that the Commission in Brussels

Yours faithfully,
J. G. WATKIN JONES,
University of Reading,
Department of Agriculture
and Horticulture,
Earley Gate,
Reading.
February 5.

can remember in West Laro
Kylstan were to jail because as
chairman he issued a fraudulent
prospectus for the Royal Mail De-
benture. The auditor, the chief part-
ner in Price Waterhouse, was pro-
secuted but found not guilty. Then
not an iota of blame was attached
by the City to any non-executive
directors of Royal Mail because
what the board had done had been
approved by Price Waterhouse.
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAMB,
Kriehorn Manor,
Broadchalke,
Salisbury.
February 6.

persons in Sri Lanka have set themselves to make pronouncements on this matter.

Britain and Sri Lanka have a tradition of long and cordial relations based on non-interference and respect for each other in the true spirit of the Commonwealth and we earnestly hope that the British people will not allow themselves to be misled by the charges by any wrong impressioners. The writers and the British public can rest assured that the Government of Sri Lanka will deal with this problem with the sense of fair play and reasonableness that has always marked their policies on this question in the past.

Yours faithfully,
V. L. R. MENDIS,
High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Britain.

13 Hyde Park Gardens, W2.
February 10.

European Communities; that the term *Common Market* is really an inadequate description of what is developing and that the recent *Times Atlas* simply ignores the whole matter in both its mapping and its statistics.

Is it not high time that we settled our score which clearly demonstrates the incompetence of the *European Communities* from the rest?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CASWELL,
7 Grange Close,
Brighton.
February 7.

reviews next week: The Monday Book: Derek Parker on a new translation of The Oresteia by Anaclyps.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICI

The Times Share Indices for 11.07.72
 Date June 2, 1964 (original date June 2, 1962).

	Index Nov. 1962	Div. Yield %	Excess Yield %
Times Index			
Times Share Index	365.4	5.8	16.2
Largest Cos.	164.93	5.69	16.0
Industrial	179.96	5.8	16.1
Capital Goods	173.25	5.61	16.1
Consumer Goods	177.0	5.85	16.4
Share Stocks	177.0	9.04	18.7
Largest financial			
Shares	134.25	5.25	-
Lowest financial			
and industrial	179.96	5.61	-
Commonly owned	225.99	3.82	5.9
Gold Mining			
Index	423.94	7.3	11.3
Industrial			
Subtotal	32.76	7.25	-
Industrial			
Subtotal	55.37	11.75	-
Sec. War Loan			
	25	15.5	-

3 record of the Times Indices
 is given below—

	Index	Div. Yield %	Excess Yield %
11-11-66	399.47	5.26	7.2
11-11-67	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-68	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-69	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-70	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-71	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-72	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-73	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-74	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-75	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-76	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-77	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-78	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-79	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-80	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-81	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-82	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-83	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-84	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-85	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-86	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-87	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-88	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-89	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-90	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-91	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-92	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-93	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-94	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-95	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-96	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-97	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-98	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-99	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-00	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-01	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-02	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-03	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-04	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-05	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-06	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-07	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-08	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-09	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-10	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-11	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-12	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-13	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-14	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-15	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-16	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-17	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-18	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-19	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-20	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-21	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-22	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-23	372.26	5.26	7.2
11-11-24	372.26	5.26	7

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

When reflation
is not reflation,
Peter Jay,
page 21

signs agreement with to hold parity ic within the 'snake'

reviewed at today's Cabinet meeting.

The official attitude is to insist on France's determination to maintain the exchange rates between the two currencies, pointing out the present difference is only 1.25 per cent, whereas the margin allowed under the "snake" rules is 2.25 per cent.

Basically, under the new agreement, the German federal bank will buy francs and sell Deutsche marks in exchange for dollars, while the French central bank will sell dollars and German marks.

Two important improvements to this concerted activity, it is understood, include the German bank intervening against the mark and helping to "buy up" the French franc.

This morning the exchange rate was around 175.10 francs to DM100, against yesterday's 175.30 francs.

Yesterday the French central bank was reported to have sold between \$300m and \$400m in order to support the franc, bringing the total spent since the French currency first came under pressure some three weeks ago to well over \$1,000m.

The central bank continued its intervention today, though at a volume reported below that of yesterday. The dollar descended slightly in Paris to 49.55 francs. The market for currencies other than the Deutsche mark was calm.

Peter Norman writes from Bonn: After a day of nervousness about the foreign exchange dealers in West-Ger-

man centres were taking a generally sceptical view of the chances of maintaining the current relationship between the French franc and the Deutsche mark within the "snake".

The news of the French and German central banks' agreement to support the franc and the firm denials from Paris of plans to devalue failed to give much support to the sagging French currency.

Significantly, unofficial German estimates of the support given to the franc tended to be higher than those in Paris. Dealers in Frankfurt and Düsseldorf estimated that the French central bank and the West German federal bank today spent between \$150m and \$250m and between DM200m and DM300m for the mark-franc swap. The mark-franc swap was at around 57.13 marks to the 100 francs and therefore above the lower intervention point in the "snake" of 56.68 marks.

Mervyn Westlake writes: Caught in the backwash of the speculation over the Deutsche mark and the French franc, the pound yesterday registered its worst ever level against the average of 19 key currencies. Its "floating" devaluation rate widened from 30.4 to 30.5 per cent. However, it rose 25 points against the dollar to \$2.0255.

Central bank intervention in the foreign exchanges was not confined to Frankfurt and Paris. The Swiss were forced to support the dollar, and the Belgian franc also had to be supported.

ring disputes re pact ready

The history of the way labour disputes in engineering have been handled is complex. The York Memorandum of 1922 set up a tortuous process with a series of "talking shops" starting at plant level and working way through local and district conferences to a form of "industrial court". The whole process could take many months to complete and the results of any strike were usually a two-sided affair.

In 1971 the two sides agreed that a new and streamlined procedure was badly needed. However, after protracted negotiations they could not agree on terms. When Mr Scanlon pulled the unions out of the 1972 agreement, engineering was left without a national disputes procedure. But, in the event, gloomy forecasts of resulting chaos proved unfounded.

During the intervening period the climate has changed and there is now a widespread acknowledgement among employers that changes in working arrangements have not been put into effect without consultation and negotiation with the shop floor.

The new disputes procedure is being considerably shortened, with almost all the emphasis on trying to achieve settlements at plant level. The only external stage where plant level talks fail will be a conference of union officials and national EEF representatives.

CBI report optimistic on upturn

By Malcolm Brown.

Stabilization in output seems to be "fairly clearly established", according to an economic situation report from the Confederation of British Industry, published yesterday.

Introducing the report, a spokesman for the CBI said it confirmed that industry was at the bottom of the decline in output and was beginning to see significant indicators that orders and output were going to improve.

But there is no optimism about unemployment. The CBI estimates that, seasonally adjusted and excluding students and school leavers, it will reach about 1.5 million by the end of 1976.

The economic situation report is a bulletin, but still fairly cautious about output. "All the signs in the immediate future for expecting output to begin to rise rapidly from its trough," the report says. "Our view of likely developments is that output will rise only slowly through 1976 before accelerating in 1977."

The report notes that surveys of consumer opinion, as well as the behaviour of the gilt-edged markets, might suggest that "the pay limit is having a more marked impact on inflation expectations than previous incomes policies have had".

Government may take bigger stake in BBK

By Our Financial Editor.

The Government will maintain and possibly increase its substantial minority shareholding in Brown Boveri Kent, a strategically important instrument maker.

This is despite the fact that under the terms of a £2.1m rights issue, announced last month BBK, which is already 49 per cent owned by the Swiss Brown Boveri group, is virtually certain to fall under Swiss control.

A 12.27 per cent increase in BBK's value of the old Industrial Reorganisation Corporation portfolio held by the Department of Industry, following its transfer to the National Enterprise Board, under the rights issue, the Government is entitled to just over 1 million new shares at a cost of £268,000.

A spokesman for the Department of Industry said that this entitlement has been exercised in favour of the NEB. While an NEB spokesman said yesterday that it would be unfair to comment until the BBK holding had been officially transferred from the Department of Industry, it is thought that the NEB will have subscribed for the rights entitlement by the time the offer closes next Tuesday.

If so, this poses an interesting possibility, about another 10 per cent of BBK's 9.09 per cent holding held by Rank-Organisation. Rank has already said it will not take up its rights of 789,625 new shares at a cost of £157,000, and it is thought possible that these shares too may be taken by the NEB.

Rank's decision not to take up its rights is understandable since its holding in BBK dates back to 1958 when Rank bought against George Kent for control of Cambridge Instrument. This caused the intervention of the IRC to the instrument maker, a larger, independent British instrument maker. This effectively "blocked" Rank and ultimately left Kent with Cambridge and a large government stake.

Subsequently Rank built up its holding to 9.09 per cent, the long-running saga took a fresh turn when the Swiss Brown Boveri group came forward with a scheme for injecting £6.1m into Kent in return for a 49 per cent interest in a new company, BBK.

Now Brown Boveri wants to raise £2m capital for BBK and has underwritten the present rights issue. If no one took up their entitlement to the one-for-four shares offer, Brown Boveri would end up with 33.2 per cent of the BBK shares.

In fact, since BBK has only shown early signs of recovery, it is likely that a sufficient number of shareholders will turn down their rights to enable Brown Boveri to assume at least bare control.

However, the NEB seems determined to maintain a substantial minority stake in this important instrument maker. Apart from the 12.27 per cent stake already held by the Government and the possibility that the NEB will also take up the Rank rights, there is also the chance that the existing Rank stake is for sale and the NEB might be a buyer.

In that case the NEB could end up with a stake of just over 20 per cent in what will probably be a Swiss-controlled BBK.

Iran ends \$400m loan doubts with pledge of two payments in summer

By Mervyn Westlake.

Concern that Iran's mounting financial difficulties might prevent it from making a promised \$400m (about £197m) loan to Britain proved to be unfounded yesterday when, after weeks of speculation, it was finally announced that the money would be paid in two equal instalments this summer.

Although this may provide some assurance to Whitehall and to the large number of British exporters selling to Iran, it will not entirely allay fears that Iran is facing problems in finding sufficient money to meet all its commercial obligations.

Debits about Iran's ability to meet the \$400m loan, which is to go to the National Water Council, have increased in recent weeks with the approach of the assumed mid-March deadline for transferring the money. The Iranian financial year ends on March 20.

However, it now appears that under last autumn's agreement, which followed the visit to Tehran of Mr Healey, the Chancellor, only a "drawdown" schedule for

the loan was necessary by March.

The Treasury announced yesterday that after discussions in Tehran between representatives of the Iranian ministry of economic affairs and British officials it had been agreed that the loan would be paid in two equal amounts on June 30 and September 30.

Neither the Treasury nor the National Water Council seemed perturbed yesterday that the money would not be received for some months.

Britain's gold and currency reserves, which would immediately benefit from a transfer of foreign currency, have recently been boosted by a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

They are now sufficiently high to finance the country's overseas trade deficit for a considerable time and there is thus little pressure to find further finance for this purpose in the immediate future.

The \$400m loan is the second tranche of the \$1,200m which the Shah of Iran offered to lend Britain in July, 1974, after the huge rise in the world crude oil price.

The loan was to be made

over three years, and a third, \$400m tranche is still expected to be made before July, 1977.

For the National Water Council the loan will represent only about a third of its annual capital investment programme of £600m, most of which comes from the National Loans Fund.

There is, however, good reason to think that it is more convenient for the Iranians that the loan will fall into its 1976-77 financial year. Oil revenues for the past year are likely to be some \$3,000m below the level originally expected, at \$18,900m. This is putting some strain on Iranian finances.

Its budget for 1976-77 will be in deficit for the first time for six years. Even so, the lower oil revenues have not prevented the Iranian Government from budgeting for a 25 per cent increase in outlays.

It will itself therefore probably be borrowing overseas in coming months. This is behind the fears that Iran's finances are becoming touch less healthy. To get more money it has been putting strong pressure on the Western oil companies to increase the amount of oil bought from Iran.

Wedding guest who leaked a City secret

By Adrienne Gleeson.

Mr Michael Gunn, joint managing director of the construction equipment group, A. Gunn (Holdings), was prevented from getting to church on time for a wedding to which he had been invited because of a Sunday afternoon board meeting to discuss a proposed merger.

He rang up his host to say that he would be late and to explain the circumstances. And then, according to the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, resulted in purchases of Gunn's shares on the following day which "undoubtedly contributed to the substantial rise" in their price.

For Mr Gunn's host, Mr S. S. Ordman, of Atrichman, Cheshire, instructed his stockbroker, at the Sunday evening reception which followed the wedding, to buy shares in Gunn to a value of about £5,000 at a maximum price of 47p per share.

His instructions were carried out early the next morning, June 9, with 7,500 shares being bought at an average price of 47p. On June 10, by which time Gunn's shares had risen to 63p on strong bid rumours, an offer from Hewden-Stuart Plant was announced at 58p per share.

The Panel, whose inquiry followed the receipt in August of a report by the Stock Exchange, which had made its own investigations, accepts that Mr Ordman was not in any way connected with Gunn or the proposed offer for Gunn.

Nevertheless, the Panel considers that Mr Ordman knew or ought to have known that he received the information in confidence, and that it was not to be acted upon. "It therefore feels bound to record its disapproval of his conduct."

Mr Gunn, the Panel considers, is deserving of reprimand for not observing the strict requirement of Rule 7 of the Takeover Code, which stresses the need for absolute secrecy during bid negotiations. While appreciating Mr Gunn's wish, in the circumstances, to explain to Mr Ordman the reason for his inability to attend the wedding, the Panel considers that he acted indiscreetly.

After a downward revision by the Gunn directors of their estimate of profits for the year which had ended in March, 1975, Hewden-Stuart subsequently revised the terms of its offer for Gunn, reducing the price to 62p, of which 5p was to be satisfied by cash. The offer was declared unconditional in the middle of August, and closed on September 1, at which stage Hewden-Stuart had 72 per cent of the issued capital, practically all of the rest being owned by UDT Industries.

NEB urged to keep away from Rolls

By Our Financial Editor.

Conservative MPs yesterday tabled a Commons motion calling on the National Enterprise Board to "keep its sticky fingers off Rolls-Royce (1973) Ltd." until it has proved itself capable of running anything else.

Mr Peter Rost, MP for Derbyshire South-East, whose constituents include Rolls-Royce employees, has sponsored the motion. He said that a series of questions on the issue of the NEB's relationship with the aero-engine concern.

Moves to raise in the Commons the whole issue of current negotiations between Rolls-Royce and the NEB, led by his chairman, Sir Kenneth Robinson, and the state holding company, led by Lord Ryder, will cause the Government some embarrassment.

The NEB and Rolls-Royce issued a joint statement yesterday, after a report in *The Times*, to make it clear that at no time during recent discussions had any suggestion been made or hinted at that there should be any change in the management structure of Rolls-Royce.

This statement, no doubt intended to avoid exacerbating the delicate talks, does not rule out the question being raised by other members of the House. Rolls-Royce will be asked to appoint a chief executive enjoying the confidence of the NEB.

Lord Ryder is keen that Sir Kenneth should stay as chairman, however, since, as chairman, he is firmly agreed about the NEB's relationship, but is known to think that the Leyland management structure would be suitable for Rolls-Royce.

At the heart of the understanding is the separate roles of a chief executive and a part-time chairman.

For his part, Lord Ryder will have to decide whether Sir Kenneth's present duties as chairman, both his board and the executive management committee are acceptable, for Rolls-Royce has not had either a managing director or a formal chief executive since 1974.

Healey tax scheme to justify low pay norm

By Peter Jay.

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is known to be troubled by what he regards as garbled accounts circulating recently of his thoughts about the wages of incomes policy. He is expected shortly to make his position clear.

The Chancellor believes that the tax system can be used to justify a lower general norm than might otherwise be acceptable to trade unions. But he does not think that this is a way of reconciling his own preference for a percentage norm from next August with Mr Jack Jones's declared wish for a continuing flat rate element in the pay increase ceiling.

Mr Healey's point is a simpler one. If, for example, the Trades Union Congress would accept, say, a 5 per cent norm, together with a sufficient increase in personal allowances against income tax, a 5 per cent norm would pay the equivalent of a further 2 per cent on gross pay, inflation could be brought down faster without any extra sacrifice by workers.

Two per cent of present average weekly full-time earnings of men is about £135, of which 47p goes in tax. An increase of £130 in the annual personal allowance, which now stands at £678 (and £558 for a married man), would bring a similar benefit to the average earner's take-home pay.

The Chancellor will further be making the point that work will benefit in addition from the fact that prices will rise more slowly as a result of the lower increase in wage and salary costs. Thus the same take-home pay will buy more, under, say, a 5 per cent norm plus £130 increase in personal

allowances formula, than it would under a 7 per cent norm.

Mr Healey will admit that the tax method involves a cost to the Exchequer. To some extent tighter control of government spending can balance the cost to the Exchequer. To some extent a larger Budget deficit may be tolerated where it is the direct price of bringing down the rate of inflation. Moreover, even a slower rate of inflation will have the effect, in due course of moving people back into higher income brackets and so boosting tax revenue.

The Chancellor, who is pledged to try to help "middle managers" in the £4,000 to £5,000 a year bracket, will point out that those who are paying above the present 35 per cent basic rate of tax on the top slice of their earnings would benefit to a greater extent from such an adjustment.

A married man earning £7,500 a year may be paying 50 per cent tax on his top slice of income; and he would gain £65—or the equivalent of an extra £130 a year added to his taxable income—£65 an increase in personal allowances of £130.

At the same time Mr Healey can point out to Mr Jones that that benefit is still likely to be the equivalent of a smaller percentage increase (1.7 per cent) in gross pay than the man on £70 a week would get (2 per cent).

He will also be careful to make clear that such an ad hoc deal with the TUC would not imply any standing commitment automatically to adjust income tax allowances, now or in the future, to offset the effects of inflation on the real value of those allowances, a process variously known as "revalorisation" or "indexation".

UDT gains concession from support group

By Christopher Williams.

United Dominions Trust, the banking and finance house, which lost £32.4m in 1974-75, has won a concession from its secondary bank support group, which means that in future it will have to pay a smaller premium over money market rates for deposits.

This emerged yesterday when UDT announced that it had secured a small pre-tax profit of £250,000, although after tax and minority payments there was a loss of £3.5m.

The support group of clearing banks and the Bank of England, has been charging secondary banks like UDT premiums, believed to be between 2 and 2.5 per cent over interbank rates, when they have pumped in large funds to replace those withdrawn by worried depositors.

UDT, the biggest single recipient of support under the rescue operation, drawing funds estimated at more than £400m, says that this premium cost it £40m during the first half of the present financial year.

Mr Len Mather, who moved in as chairman in 1974, said yesterday that from the beginning of this year UDT would be paying "a little less" for its funds. It is thought that the reduction could be about 4 per cent, which suggests that UDT could now be paying a premium of around 1.5 per cent over interbank rate.

UDT has argued that the premium was preventing it from making a full recovery from the secondary bank crisis. Mr Mather said he would be pressing for still further reductions in the premium.

Financial Editor, page 21

Bright start for oil units

By Our Financial Staff.

"OPS" or Oil Production Stock, the novel security devised by Morgan Grenfell and Cazenove as a sweetener to the £75m package of guaranteed loan stock for the LMSO/SCOT, made its stock market debut yesterday. The OPS units opened at a bid price of £2 against a nominal price of 10p, which was rather better than predicted around the market earlier.

The loan stock, however, opened at around £32 (50 per cent paid) which was somewhat below expectations. It is thought that some 7 to 8 per cent of the issue was turned over in lively trading.

Taking the loan stock fully paid—where the running yield is 10 per cent—the combined market value of the loan stock and 10 OPS is thus £102, a slight premium over the offer price, as expected. So, in theory at least, the fact that the OPS units were offered as a package deal should have kept the stage at bay and Morgan Grenfell said yesterday that one or two who applied for OPS without loan stock were spotted.

Lever hopes for voluntary pact

The Government still hopes to gain 51 per cent share participation in creating commercial oilfields in the North Sea "by voluntary means, on the basis of 'free negotiation'".

Mr Harold Lever, who heads the ministerial participation negotiating team, said last night. He said the Treasury of £200m that the companies were being offered a deal which would enable the Government to convince the British people that there was a viable form of partnership, fair to both parties.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Ass Port Cen 2p to 181p	Andriotic 3p to 39p
Ayer Htam 7p to 177p	Barclays Bk 2p to 310p
Brooks Tool 1p to 155p	Boots 2p to 134p
Dalgety 1p to 257p	Bart Am Tob 2p to 354p
EMT 1p to 252p	Courtaulds 2p to 158p
Falshaw Dock 5p to 124p	Gen Accident 5p to 159p
Lombard 5p to 124p	GKN 5p to 300p

MTW	W	Th	F
Woolley 4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p
Woolley 4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p
Woolley 4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p
Woolley 4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p	4p to 46p

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia 5 1.66	1.60
Austria Sch 38.00	36.00
Belgium Fr 44.25	41.25
Canada 2.06	2.01
Denmark Kr 12.75	12.35
Finland Mk 7.95	7.70
France Fr 6.55	6.25
Germany DM 5.30	5.10
Greece Dr 80.00	75.00
Hong Kong S 10.35	9.95
Italy L 160.00	150.00
Japan Y 355.00	340.00
Netherlands Gld 5.50	5.30
Norway Kr 11.40	11.05
Portugal Esc 69.00	65.00
S. Africa R 2.25	2.05
Spain Pes 137.50	132.00
Sweden Kr 9.15	8.75
Switzerland Fr 5.35	5.15
US \$ 2.07	2.02

On other pages

Business appointments	22
Appointments vacant	25
Financial Editor	21
Letters	20
Market reports	22

Financial news

Share prices	18
Wall Street	23
Bank Base Rates Table	23

Preliminary Announcements

Aaronson Bros	19
Securicor	21
Interim Statement	21
Dalgety	22

AARONSON BROS. LIMITED

Manufacturers of: Contiboard, Contiplas, Wood Veneers, Conticlad, Aroplas, Laconite, Griffithite, Armatrim, Armaflex, Spanboard, etc.

STATEMENT OF TRADING RESULTS

Year ending 30th September, 1975
(Subject to Final Audit)

	Year ended 30.9.75	Year ended 30.9.74
Group Sales	17,785,544	17,295,729
Group Trading Profit before Interest	2,203,745	2,115,170
Interest (payable)	383,977	246,342
Group Profit before Taxation	1,819,768	1,868,828
Provision for Taxation	716,000	622,000
Group Profit after Taxation	1,103,768	1,046,828
Minority Interests	110,821	112,548
	992,947	934,280
Extraordinary Items (net of taxation)	228,627	179,651
Amount attributable to members of Aaronson Bros. Ltd.	764,320	754,629
Cost of Dividends paid and proposed		
Preference Capital	130,500	130,500
Ordinary Capital	311,679	292,065
	442,179	422,565
Earnings per Ordinary 10p Share (fully diluted)	4.61p	4.39p

Although the provision for taxation amounts to £716,000, due to Capital Allowances arising from substantial Capital Expenditure, the taxation payable based on the profits for the year is estimated to be £182,400.

The Extraordinary Items arise substantially from the closure and transfer of certain production units to the Group's new factory in Devon as a result of the Group policy to consolidate the main board manufacturing activities on one principal site.

The Directors propose recommending the maximum permitted payment for the final dividend of 1.10472p per Ordinary Share making, with the interim dividend already paid, a total of 1.80472p per Ordinary Share (last year 1.50373p per share) absorbing £311,679 (last year £292,065). Subject to confirmation of the div-

At the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 1st April, 1976, dividend warrants will be posted 2nd April for payment on 5th April, 1976 to all shareholders on the register at the close of business on 3rd March, 1976.

The achievement of the year's profitability was particularly pleasing due to the inevitable disturbances and reduction in profits which resulted from the transfer of production to our new site. Whilst forecasting is difficult in the present economic climate, the recent expansion, particularly in Devon, should substantially increase the Group's productivity and profitability. Since the year end, trading has improved and it is anticipated that the current half year results will show a significant increase over the same period for last year.

THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Rank's nervous shareholders



Mr. Len Mather, chairman of UDT: reducing the property book.

achieve... and... Rank... since... 1900... lost... grow... Rank... with... United... in... the... wake... of... the... non... to... be... right... again... within... a... matter... weeks... Apart... from... this... temporary... phenomenon... there... is... as... yet... little... sign... that... the... recession... is... forcing... companies... to... make... any... significant... cuts... in... their... security... budgets... Given... that... the... group... has... a... consistent... growth... record... despite... the... problems... with... margins... that... afflicted... last... year's... first... half... severely... the... shares... at... 50p... are... on... a... fairly... modest... historic... p/e... ratio... of... 10... even... if... a... yield... of... just... 2.8... per... cent... is... a... handicap... Meanwhile... there... is... a... question... mark... over... group... plans... for... the... £4m... cash... in... the... balance... sheet... although... £1m... of... this... has... been... spent... on... acquiring... new... branches... where... rents... are... charged... in... the... finance... division... Investment... portfolio... was... up... from... £632,000... to... £660,000... last... year... Final: 1974-75 (1973-74) Capitalization £5.4m Sales £61.55m (£46.73m) Pre-tax profits £2.75m (£2.63m) Earnings per share 5.7p (5.3p) Dividend gross 1.57p (1.43p) *Adjusted for scrip.

Dalgety Seasonal variations

At first sight it looks as though Dalgety's unexpectedly good January results can be put straight down to classic operation of the raw materials cycle. Indeed, improvements in meat prices have shown through in less elimination on the pastoral side in Australia (which produced £1m ahead of central expenses, as against an £800,000 loss last year), and in profits recovery in New Zealand, whose contribution rose from nil to £12m. On further study, however, it becomes obvious that the best of the improvement so far has come from the group's less cyclical industries, and notably from Associated British Maltsters and Pils Improvement in the United Kingdom, where the overall contribution rose from £2.8m to £5.1m, comfortably offsetting the £1.3m downturn in North America to an £800,000 contribution for which the United States and Canada were equally responsible. The implication is that there is very much more to come as produce prices harden further, and the questions now concern the timing. Any view of the remainder of the year has to take in the fact that the seasonal rise in Australasia is towards the second half, and that Canada should improve as timber prices rise and United States housebuilding starts continue to increase.

On the other hand the United States is unlikely to produce much more than it did in the first half unless the frozen food subsidiary Spigel comes up with the goods—or unless the peculiar circumstances of 1974 are repeated to make steel a worthwhile import again. And in the United Kingdom last summer's volume benefits for Associated British Maltsters are now out of the way. All in all, then—and given that Dalgety still have the benefit of relatively low interest rates on its short-term borrowings (£66.4m at the interim as against £63.2m at the accounting date; and facilities are "quite adequate") at least until the June year-end—note £17m looks to be on the cards for the current year. That would put the shares, 17p up yesterday at 237p, on a prospective p/e ratio of just under 7, more than preserving Dalgety's traditional discount to the market average. On the other hand, neither that nor a prospective yield of 5.7 per cent leave much to go for short-term.

Interim: 1975/76 (1974/75) Capitalization £5.4m Sales £29.4m (£28.7m) Pre-tax profits £7.8m (£4m) Dividend gross 7.33p (6.66p).

UDT The long road back

It is heartening to see United Dominions Trust back into the black but the message of these interim figures is that it still looks like a long slow haul before the group gets fully into fighting trim again. There are, to be sure, a number of encouraging features: around 160 housing plots a week are being released from the property portfolio and the total of property loans is down by £16m to around £130m; the premium over market rates being exacted by the "lifeboat" committee for deposits has been cut slightly; there has been no further necessary for provisions, either on the property or the consumer books; rationalization costs are now well out of the way; market share in domestic instalment finance—admittedly a declining market—is apparently being maintained and interest rates are moving in its favour. UDT Industries is making "satisfactory profits", and now that some of the German banking interests have been sold (losses were £1m), the international side is going well too. But the obstacles to recovery are still formidable. There remain £60m of property loans which are not yet paying interest, at a half-year cost of £4m, and there is not much sign of improvement. Moreover, the savings from the reduced premium for "lifeboat" money have to be seen in the context of the £4m which the premium cost in the first six months. The potential savings seem unlikely to be much more than £1m in the next half, and any further reductions can be negotiated. And, at bottom, there remains the continued dependence on the "lifeboat" for deposits, the amounts owing being reduced to the extent that the consumer book has fallen in line with the market. So the gearing still looks to be alarming, and unless UDT can come up with some fundamental restructuring package, either involving new equity or longer term finance—both of which currently look unlikely—the shares at 27p will continue to find the going hard. Interim: 1975-6 (1974-5) Capitalization £2.6m Sales £10.5m (£7.3m) Pre-tax profits £0.50m (£2.3m) *Loss.

M Francois Ceyrac (right), spokesman for the French employers, talks to Charles Hargrove about participation by workers in the boardroom



French employers unpersuaded by company reform proposals

Relations between the French Government and employers have recently shown signs of steady deterioration. A month ago the Government confirmed its determination to introduce this year fundamental reforms in industry and in the taxation of capital gains, which the employers regard as untimely and uncalled for. At the same time the Government is looking to the employers to throw their full weight into the battle for recovery and employment by investing, producing and exporting. But it turns a deaf ear to their demands for an end to price controls, cuts in social burdens, and the stabilization of wages. I asked M Francois Ceyrac, who was re-elected last month president of the Conseil National Du Patronat Français (CNPF), the French employers' federation, for another three-year term, whether he thought that an economy like France's, which was just beginning to emerge from the most serious crisis since the war, and an industry which in the past year had emerged weaker from the ordeal than that of her main competitors like the United States or Germany, could afford the luxury of the fundamental reform of industrial structures proposed year ago by the Sudreau Report. "French employers are good employers", he replied, "and French companies, in spite of some weaknesses which are not all of their own making, showed their vitality in a time of crisis. So we are not dealing with firms dating from the time of Charles-Magne. They are modern, and they are competitive to the extent one allows them to fight on equal terms. Consequently we have not yet understood why one of the most urgent objectives of the Government was to place the reform of companies on the agenda of fundamental French problems as early as 1976." "But as we are good Frenchmen, we won't go into the streets to thwart the actions of the Government. But we regard it as our job to inform it of what we consider some fundamentally inappropriate features in its plans." I remarked that the Sudreau report was generally regarded as rather moderate in its recommendations. It did not propose the introduction of co-management in industry, but of "co-supervision". "No employer in this world wants co-management", M Ceyrac exclaimed, "neither the English, the German nor the French. Co-supervision is the secret weapon of the Sudreau Report." The report recommended the introduction of co-supervision in companies with a directorate and a supervisory board, as opposed to those with a president and managing director, and a managing board. But it goes on to say that the two types of companies can be regarded as similar, because in practice the managing boards have no more power

than the supervisory ones. This, M Ceyrac insisted, is justifiably and practically erroneous. "Secondly, the dynamics of M Sudreau's report is also misleading, and one sees it in Germany", he went on, "a country which in this respect has a far greater experience than ours. From the moment you introduce workers on to boards, you create a situation of deadlock. They will be in a minority (the report provides for one third of the membership of supervisory boards to be made up of workers' representatives), and their obsession will be to achieve equality with the representatives of capital. "Then you have to find an umpire, who removes the deadlock. So you merely displace the problem, and the umpire will have the power of decision instead of the present manager of the firm. How will the umpire be chosen? What powers will he have? That's what we do not see." To my objection that the supervisory board had by definition no executive power, M Ceyrac replied that in France, the supervisory board always went a little further than supervision as such. It performed certain acts of authority. "Who appoints the president? It is the supervisory board, and not the directorate. Who lays down the functions of the directorate? It is the supervisory board. It is the supervisory board which is not privileged in relation to the one who stayed at home. Then we would not have all these women at work who immensely complicate the problem of employment", M Ceyrac insisted. Then there was the problem of manual labour. There were two million foreign workers in France, three-quarters of whom did manual work, which Frenchmen did not like, and regarded as second-class work unworthy of them, a notion reinforced by the fact that it was performed by foreigners. "It is economically false, socially unbearable, and politically dangerous", M Ceyrac exclaimed. "The problem of manual labour should not be solved by the massive and systematic import of foreign workers." Job enrichment was part of the solution. The president of the employers' federation stressed that while France had weathered the recent crisis in rather better shape than some other countries, French companies had suffered more than American, German, or even perhaps Japanese ones, and for three reasons: "France is not yet an advanced industrial country. She has not yet found the right balance between industry and agriculture", he stressed. Second, she did not have a sufficiently strong financial framework to back up her industry. Banking and insurance had no long remained confined to their traditional roles of providers of capital. Third, "We have suffered terribly in France from an extraordinary perversion of the role of the state in industrial policy, when, from the fifties, the state practised a policy of dirigisme, intervention, and price controls. This weakened the French firms, so that they could not use the free days to build up their muscles and prepare for the crisis."

September, December, February... March?

The Chancellor will make two principal claims about today's third instalment of measures to alleviate unemployment. He will say that they will significantly curb unemployment. And he will say that they do not amount to a general reflation. This distinction was fundamental to his speech in the unemployment debate in the House of Commons on January 29. On the one hand he said: "At the moment it seems likely that the increase in both output and employment, particularly in manufacturing industry, will be rather fast next year... If that proves to be the case, a further big stimulus to demand by action this year might turn out to be as ill-timed and disastrous as the pill of one reflationary measure on another by the previous Administration when they panicked in July 1971 and started a consumption boom which they pumped up still further in the budget of 1972." On the other hand he said: "The Government are determined to take any effective steps open to them to reduce the level of unemployment—we shall continue to do everything that can sensibly be done to save and protect jobs in the next few months as well as forward the coming decline in unemployment to the earliest possible moment." This "dualism" has not, surprisingly, baffled a postwar generation reared on the idea that governments can and do guarantee full employment only because they possess the weapon of reflation, as discovered by Keynes. (For the benefit of those who keep writing to me insisting, on no stated authority, on tendentious definitions of the words "reflation", "re-inflation" and "disinflation" let me explain how the words are used in standard contemporary economic literature. "Inflation" means a rise in the general price level, however caused. "Reflation" means an increase, however caused, in the total flow of spending in real terms in relation either to what would otherwise have happened or to the normal growth in output per man. "Deflation" is its opposite. "Reinflation" means reflation which has the consequence of causing or exacerbating inflation. "Disinflation" means deflation which has the consequence of reducing or stopping inflation. The distinction which the Chancellor has adopted is between stimulating employment by adding to the total flow of spending and keeping or getting people off the unemployment register by direct action. He argues that the latter approach has the advantage over the former of acting quickly (in weeks and months rather than in months and years) and of avoiding the side-effects of reflation on the balance of payments and on inflation. But even direct action costs money. It can, therefore, be regarded as a change in the budget deficit affecting the total flow of spending, as well as a direct inducement to keep people off the unemployment register. The Chancellor is thus constrained to argue simultaneously that his measures are costly enough to have a substantial employment-creating impact and that they are cheap enough to have no significant reflationary effect. This in turn leads him to emphasize the distinction between the gross and net costs in the Exchequer. The measures he announces are expensive. For example, the measures which were announced on September 24 last year were said to cost £175m gross. It was strongly urged by Mr Healey that £55m of this would be offset by savings on unemployment benefit and supplementary benefits and that a further £80m would fall outside the 1975-76 financial year. The measures announced on December 17 were said to cost £15m gross (excluding the £70m for the British Steel Corporation's special counter-cyclical stockpile). But the Chancellor was at pains to state that the net cost "because of the saving on social security payments and the gain in taxation... may well be close to zero".

This afternoon Mr Healey will announce measures, of the same broad type as in September and December, whose gross cost will approach £200m. But he will explain that the cost over the next 12 months will be just about £100m, of which about half will be offset by savings on unemployment benefit, other social security benefits and by increased income tax, corporation tax and value added tax receipts. How then is the plain man to interpret these two-way facts by the Chancellor of the Exchequer? Are substantial effects on unemployment being bought at the price of substantial unacknowledged reflation? Or is the Chancellor simply only claiming to be acting on unemployment while in fact remaining true to his pledge of "no reflation"? Or, thirdly, has he found a way of increasing employment without increasing the total flow of expenditure, on which economists have traditionally supposed that economic activity and employment depended? It is reasonably clear that the Chancellor has not been and is not refraining by way of his "measures to alleviate unemployment", mks I, II and III. Even the gross costs are trivially small in relation to a current "demand deficiency" which would call for an Exchequer cash stimulus, according to traditional arithmetic, of £15,000m. A 1 per cent unemployment minus 2½ per cent "full employment" unemployment equals 2½ per cent excess unemployment equals a deficiency equivalent to 10 per cent of gross domestic product equals a required cash stimulus of about £15,000m).

Peter Jay Economics Editor

The truth about the Chancellor's approach—pending any real reflation in the public expenditure White Paper next Thursday or in the April 6 budget—is partly that the Chancellor is not doing very much about unemployment and partly that he has found a cheap way of keeping some people off the unemployment register. As he himself in the House of Commons on December 17 said of all the measures he announced that day, including the hire purchase relaxations and selective import controls: "I do not claim that the measures... will in themselves produce a massive impact on the present level of unemployment." There remains an economic dilemma for the Chancellor even supposing that he is succeeding in his political purposes of throwing dust in the eyes of those who want him to reflate (who, as he rightly said, do not include the TUC). Insofar as he is not adding to the real flow of spending in the economy, he is not keeping people off the unemployment register by artificial tricks. The job creation programme and extended training measures, for example, amount to hiring people not as a register as unemployed by offering them alternative incomes for performing no economically useful functions (though at the same time filling—or wasting—the time of the beneficiaries). The temporary employment subsidy and school leavers subsidy, in contrast, bribe the employer to keep people off the unemployment register. To the extent that the marginal product of these people exceeds the net cost to the employer plus the net cost to the Exchequer of their employment, these schemes are cost-effective. But by cutting unemployment they also reduce the deterrent to the exercise of collective bargaining powers, incomes policy or no incomes policy. This must tend to raise the price of labour and therefore either price more workers out of their jobs or force the Government to reflate or unleash a vortex of rising unemployment which the frequent "measures" to alleviate unemployment—which is where we seem to have come in.

Business Diary: Beryl's lot • The brokers' man

Australian London chief for Woman's... inter-... a interna... Business... 500 or... from over... upon the... Queen's... board... of this... wife... a lot of... ing other... less of a... I affiliate... ration of... professional... at, formed... d, Britain... 450 such... ership of... played an... earning the... y and Sex... year... the clubs... e women's... difficult... sals had a... cal dinge... a retired... w the fede... says that... trying to... msense... of all this... said. "A... ere on her... mind being... am Chair-... he Acts or... 10 years"

work in ironing out ingrained assumptions harmful to women... A recent federation survey of the Schools' Advisory Service, Miss Candy said, showed that education authorities differed greatly in the amount of encouragement they gave to girls to consider wider career choices. Accountancy and geology should obviously be on any list. Reform club The public, if not everyone in the insurance broking community, should be pleased that the incoming chairman of Lloyd's association, the Insurance Brokers' Association, Peter Miller, sees reform of the profession as the priority. Miller, a barrister, wants to see some body roughly equivalent to the Law Society, registering and regulating insurance brokers instead of the present laissez faire regime where virtually anyone can set up as a broker. This has led to dud brokers placing business with dud insurance companies on behalf of an unsuspecting consumer, who has had no redress to any central regulating body. The reform along largely by the Lloyd's association, the four main insurance broking organisations have recently formed the British Insurance Brokers' Council which is now talking to the Government about effective self regulation. "We have got to make this work," says Miller, implying that otherwise the Government will impose regulation from outside. Miller, who is 45, read for

but was panned by the agencies and given a final thumbs-down by the Price Commission. Dock rivals Two farmers have stepped into the middle of the bid battle developing between European Ferries and the British Transport Docks Board for control of Felixstowe Dock and Railway. Alan Padney, of Ingeston, Essex, and Geoffrey Woollard, of Chalk Farm, Bostham, Cambridgeshire, are to fight the port's directors' decision to reject European Ferries' takeover proposals. Felixstowe's board came out against the ferry group's proposals on Monday, reaffirming their backing for the dock board's £5.24m offer, a bid which needs Parliamentary approval before shareholders can be paid their 150p cash per share. The state takeover was approved by Felixstowe's shareholders, on their board's recommendation, at a stormy meeting last November. Padney and Woollard opposed the deal then, and hope to re-open the fight by backing European Ferries. "The decision by the directors shows their defeatist attitude," argues Woollard. "European Ferries offer us the hope of continuing private enterprise at Felixstowe to the benefit of everyone." Padney intends to canvass support for an extraordinary meeting to debate the issue. They will need the backing of holders of 10 per cent of Felixstowe's shares, just under 350,000, to call a meeting.

scattered, on impression of which our Dick Leadbetter gives above. The thumb, they thought, looked too much like the price checking, and in the end Mrs Williams was persuaded that the impression of true partnership was the thing. Miller, London Weekend Television's sales director, is looking to fact up advertising rates on the nights that this and other popular films are shown, while offering rebates if the ratings don't come up to scratch. Many people in ITV will be watching to see how Miller's wheeze fares, but it's going to take time. Advertising agencies are split on the idea while a decision from the TV advisory group of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising isn't likely until next month. When Thames TV showed another Bond film, Dr No, recently, it turned out to be one of the most popular programmes so far, with over half the population tuned in. "Thames's Jim Shaw tried to double some rates for that show,



Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, yesterday produced as a symbol of the new price restraint scheme a triangle incorporating the words "Price Check". It had the blessing of two necessary participants, the Confederation of British Industry and the Retail Consortium. What nobody was talking about yesterday, however, was the symbol which the manufacturers and retailers did not like and



the Bar after coming down from Oxford in 1952, is senior partner in the family firm of The Miller & Son (Insurance) R. Miller & Son, a firm specialises in marine legal liabilities, an area one might think would be extremely active after the recent spate of vessel losses, including Olympic Bravery and Berge Ispra. So far, however, there have been no major legal claims here. Miller adds, perhaps somewhat ruefully.

Russian roulette Ron Miller's counting on an audience of millions for From Russia With Love, the second of the James Bond films to be bought for showing by ITV. But some eyes will be on Miller himself.

Russian roulette Ron Miller's counting on an audience of millions for From Russia With Love, the second of the James Bond films to be bought for showing by ITV. But some eyes will be on Miller himself.

IMPROVING TREND IN PROFITABILITY

	SECURICOR GROUP LTD		SECURITY SERVICES LTD	
	1975	1974	1975	1974
GROUP TURNOVER	61,554,000	46,730,000	61,227,000	46,343,000
NET PROFIT BEFORE TAX				
Security Division	2,095,000	1,998,000	2,095,000	1,998,000
Finance Division	680,000	631,000	680,000	631,000
Tax	2,755,000	2,827,000	2,336,000	2,223,000
NET PROFIT AFTER TAX	1,550,000	1,553,000	1,328,000	1,320,000
Due to outside shareholders	1,205,000	1,074,000	1,008,000	903,000
Extraordinary items	488,000	437,000	7,000	4,000
Final dividend recommended (gross)*	717,000	637,000	1,001,000	898,000
Total dividends for year (gross)*	10,000	140,000	19,000	269,000
	707,000	497,000	982,000	630,000
	4.7927%	4.3571%	6.6187%	6.0179%
	6.2777%	5.7070%	9.9607%	9.0562%

*Adjusted for scrip issue.

The improvement in operating profitability, resulting in higher profit before and after tax, was concentrated in the second half of the year, which showed an 18% increase over the comparable period in 1974. This more favourable trend has continued into the current financial year. It has been supported by a growth in turnover in real terms arising from increasing demand for all Securicor services at home and overseas.

- PETER SMITH Chairman



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leather is stitched into the door panels, seats and fascia; the fascia and door cappings are finished in burr walnut. On the evidence of the test car, the Rio is finished to an impressively high standard, and the first time I filled up with petrol, the paintwork alone brought admiring comments from the garage man. Electrically operated windows and a radio are standard equipment.

So the car certainly looks the part, as it must to justify a price of £8,397 for the base model and £9,445 for the two-litre Especial. On the road, too, it has the virtues of performance allied with economy. The Especial, which accelerates to 60 mph in about nine seconds and has a top speed of 110 mph, gave me a touring figure of 23 mpg to the gallon.

In other areas I was less impressed. For a would-be luxury model the ride is indifferent, and although not excessive by ordinary family saloon standards, there is a good deal of road, wind and engine noise. The test car also suffered from an unpleasantly harsh, restricted head room from front and back, and a modest boot.

The Feather Rio—Dolomite in Rolls-Royce clothing?

I am told by Panther that the Rio tends to be bought as a second car by Rolls-Royce owners, just as the Vanden Plas Allegro is said to appeal to Jaguar/Daimler drivers. Hard pressed to pay the gas bill, let alone find £9,445 for a car, I am perhaps not best qualified to judge, but I feel that Panther's fine coachwork demands a higher level of mechanical refinement.

Road test: Mazda 818

Mazda has not yet got round to rack-and-pinion steering on the 818, but the system is light and fairly responsive and without the sogginess one has come to associate with some Japanese cars. The brakes, on a dual circuit with discs at the front, are excellent, and if the handling is not as nimble as on the best European models, it presents few hazards, at least on smooth, dry surfaces. The ride is by no means as choppy as the conventional suspension layout might suggest, and the seats are well shaped and comfortable.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of the 818 is the lack of interior space. Any one of more than medium height will be pushed for head and leg room in the back, and I even found entry to the driving seat awkward partly because of the large steering wheel. The Aston Allegro, in spite of being about five inches shorter overall, is greatly superior in these respects. Boot space, again, is not as good as on the Allegro. Escort Instruments and minor controls are admirably functional, and there is an effective heater.

The 818, a four-door saloon, costs £11,779; the price includes cloth seats and carpet, tinted glass with laminated windscreen, radial tyres, sports wheels, heated rear window, hazard and reversing lights, reclining front seats with headrests, and a lockable fuel cap. Having decided to drop their rotary engine models, at least for the time being, the Mazda importers are pinning

their hopes for 1976 on the 818. A small car, similar in size to the Ford Escort, it has just been relaunched, with styling changes at the front and, for the first time, the option of automatic transmission. Mazda expects the 818 to take 36 per cent of the sales in Britain this year, a not unreasonable target considering the car's competitive price, good performance and high level of standard equipment.

Automatic transmissions are still comparatively rare on cars of below two litres capacity, and I suppose the principal reason is cost, for the 818 has an extra £160. Automatics also tend to use a little more fuel, not a popular thing when petrol prices are soaring, and reduce performance. On the other hand "two-pedal" cars are more relaxing to drive and possibly safer in that the driver's attention is not distracted by the need to change gear.

The other traditional objection is that automatics are not suited to small cars, although that is less true now than it was a few years ago. Certainly there are a few complaints about the three-speed Mazda box which has smooth changes, well spaced ratios and an effective kickdown. On performance, I found very little difference from the figures claimed for the manual version of acceleration to 60 mph in 15 seconds and a top speed of 95 mph.

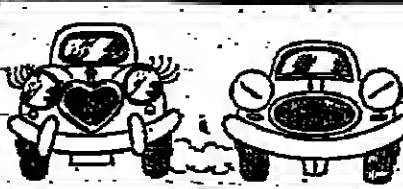
Several readers have questioned Lady Plowden's assertion in a letter to *The Times* that "a great many people in severe literary difficulties are driving with perfect confidence and safety" and that "there is no reason why they cannot drive as safely as any one else". No one knows how many of the nation's two million adult illiterates hold driving licences, but many do and, moreover, drive lorries and vans for their living.

Lady Plowden, who is president of the National Committee for Adult Literacy, was expressing concern at the Minister for Transport's suggestion (which I discussed last week), that the driving test might be amended to include a written examination on the Highway Code and car maintenance. The present driving test poses no difficulty: a candidate may not be able to read the words on a road sign, but if he can satisfy the examiner that he recognizes the sign and knows what it means all is well. On the eyesight test, an illiterate person is allowed to draw the number plate instead of reading it off.

A written examination would, of course, change the position, and if exemptions were made for one group or others would claim that, on the safety question, most road signs carry symbols rather than words and present less difficulty to non-readers than, for instance, place names. So an illiterate driver may take a wrong turning, but it is unlikely to pass a Stop sign. The Department of the Environment says there is no evidence that illiterates are more of a danger on the road than the rest of us.

Reading the road

Peter Waymark



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1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1

